

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LX.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 10th July, the wife of H. HILTON, Penang, of a daughter.

On the 25th July, at the Peak Hospital, Mr. MAX HERNFELD, aged 28 years. Deeply regretted. The cortege will pass the Monument at 9 o'clock this morning.

On the 28th July, at Stokes' Bungalow, W., the Peak, the wife of J. FINLAY MILLER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 28th July, at St. Peter's Church, at 11 a.m., by the Rev. J. H. France, M.A., ARTHUR FRASER (chief officer ss. *Zafiro*), son of JOHN FRASER, of Shetland Islands, Scotland, to FANNY MAUDE HEWITT, daughter of RICHARD HEWITT, of Birmingham, England.

DEATHS.

At Chindras House, Matlock, Derbyshire, JOHN FISHER, formerly of Perseverance Estate, Singapore, aged 84 years.

On the 27th July, at his residence, Kowloon, Mr. JAMES HENRY COX, aged 72 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 1st inst., arrived per the steamer *Nubia*, on Friday the 29th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Sir Matthew Nathan arrived at Hongkong on Friday morning by the P. & O. steamer *Nubia*, to take up his position as Governor of the Colony. His Excellency was met at the Blake Pier by the heads of departments both Military and Civil, and a guard of honour, with band in attendance, was furnished by the Sherwood Foresters. A full account will appear in our next mail edition.

Telegrams relating to the war will be found on p. 78.

A bar is forming across the entrance to Port Swettenham.

A team of Boers was included in the Bisley competitors this month.

Beri-beri continues to break out among the Chinese coolies in South Africa.

American papers say that General Cronje, aged nearly seventy, has been married at St. Louis.

Rumour says that the gunboat *Aspic* has been sent to Bangkok to back up French claims against Siam.

The first through passenger train from Cape-town to Victoria Falls on the Zambesi ran on the 22nd ultimo.

A Japanese merchant has bought the wreck of the *Koreetz*, the Russian gunboat blown up in Chemulpo harbour.

Captain Smith of the steamer *Ruby* was found dead in his cabin at Singapore on the 14th inst. Heart disease was the suspected cause.

The King's reception of "General" Booth, in the uniform of the Salvation Army, was officially recorded in the *Court Circular*.

The new steamer *Tuck Wo*, for the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., made her maiden trip up the Yangtze on Tuesday last.

The Singapore correspondent of the *Daily Mail* has stated that he sent no telegram about a Japanese cruiser en route to the Red sea. The *Free Press* therefore describes Reuter's message as a "fake."

Mr. Balfour said in the House of Commons that the Government had drawn the attention of the Porte on the 1st January, 1903, to Russian torpedo-boats passing the Dardanelles under the commercial flag.

The electric lighting installation at Penang is practically complete. The light has already been tested and found satisfactory. No public inauguration will be made, however, until the works are thoroughly in order.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Tientsin in November next, between Captain E. H. Daniell, D.S.O., D.A.A.G., North China, and Miss Winifred Currey, eldest daughter of Mr. Percival Currey.

At Glasgow, on the 11th ultimo, A. Shrubbs, the English runner, covered two miles in 9 minutes and 9 3-5 seconds, breaking the world's professional record of 9 minutes 11 1-2 seconds, held by W. Lang of Manchester, England.

Count Gallina, Italian Minister at Peking, has been appointed Italian Ambassador at St. Petersburg. He will be replaced in the Chinese capital by Signor Baroli, Councillor of Legation, who has been promoted to the rank of Minister.

A special telegram to the *Singapore Free Press* says that on July 14th, at Shanhaikwan, there was a row between French and Japanese soldiers, in which the bayonet was used by both sides. Two Frenchmen were killed and nine Japanese wounded.

Sanitary regulations, as against ships going from Hongkong, are in force now at Manila, Indo-China, Netherlands India, Burma, Straits Settlements, Shanghai, Siam, Kophai, Madras, Bengal, French Indo-China, British North Borneo and Labuan.

The members of the Club Concordia at Shanghai met on the 18th instant and decided to proceed with the building of a new club house, on plans by Mr. Bedber. The total cost, including Tls. 200,000 for the site already bought, will be Tls. 400,000.

A telegram received on the 26th inst., from our correspondent at Kobe confirms the news of the sinking of the steamer *Knight Commander* by the Russians reported by our London correspondent. Our Kobe correspondent states that the steamer was bound from Shanghai to Yokohama.

The *Japan Times* reports that a Japanese teacher in Vladivostok, named Maida, has arrived in St. Petersburg and applied for naturalisation papers. He is the Nippon equivalent of a "little Englander," and thinks his country has been "led away by the ideal of territorial expansion."

Mr. Borden, leader of the Canadian Opposition, proposed a vote of censure on Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, for his "meddlesome interference" in the Dundonald case. Mr. Fisher's retort was that Mr. Borden was "a quibbler and a pettifogger." The Speaker had hard work to restore order.

We regret to state, says the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 22nd inst., that Mr. Robert Graham, the chief officer of the C.N.S. *Shaohsing*, who on Monday made such a plucky attempt to rescue two of the Chinese crew of that vessel from the ballast tank and was himself overcome by the foul air, died at the General Hospital on Wednesday, aged 31 years.

The home papers are making an outcry concerning the exploits of the Vladivostok squadron, and declare that the sinking of neutral ships without trial is an intolerable precedent amounting to an act of war. The *Morning Post* severely criticises Mr. Balfour's statement as failing to satisfy an indignant nation. The *Standard* says the situation is exceedingly grave.

An important judgment handed down at Shanghai, and reprinted in this issue, affects hotel keepers in every English settlement in the East. Chits signed for drinks are covered by the "Tipplers' Act" and the amounts unpaid thereon are not recoverable at law. There is a suggestion that chits not specifying what they were for may be treated as recoverable "i.o.u.s", but this is uncertain.

CHINESE CURRENCY.

(Daily Press, 25th July.)

The Paoing-fu correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary calls attention, in a quaint manner, to what he describes as "one other inconvenience." He says:—"It is well known that ten 'ten-cent pieces do not (in China) make one 'dollar. This naturally makes trouble. But 'again, what is a dollar? The 'standing 'man' and the Mexican are received at the 'railway office while all the Chinese varieties 'are refused. The Chinese need just what 'all civilised governments have, a national 'currency of fixed value. How they are to 'get such a currency without having a modern government we do not know." We quite understand that the "inconvenience" must be considerable, and are equally of opinion with the writer of the foregoing lines that a national currency for China is most desirable. Where we are disposed to join issue with him is in the assumption that such an institution is impossible of attainment. There is nothing impracticable about it, and the only thing that could possibly render it really difficult even would be the indisposition of the Peking Government to carry out the stipulation of the Commercial Treaty negotiated by Sir JAMES L. MACKAY with LU HAI-HUAN and SHENG HSUAN-HUAI in September, 1902. Article II. of this Treaty is very clear and definite. It runs:—"China agrees to take the necessary steps to provide for a uniform 'national coinage which shall be legal 'tender in payment of all duties, taxes, and 'other obligations throughout the Empire 'by British as well as Chinese subjects." There is nothing in this provision which can be regarded as either unreasonable or difficult. It was understood among the signatories, and this was reduced to writing, that the Chinese Government would "make 'arrangements for the coinage of a silver 'coin of such weight and fineness as may be 'decided upon by them." They were not asked to establish a coinage on a gold basis; they were merely, in the interests of trade, asked to establish one national coin which would circulate through the Empire as the standard of value, instead of having mints in different provinces coining dollars of varying value and thus making the present want of system more chaotic than when the tael had a different value in every province and sometimes in every district.

So far as we are aware, the Chinese Government have made no effort to establish a national coinage; we do not believe they have even got to the initial stage of seriously inquiring how the work is to be carried out. Yet there is reason to believe that the leading Chinese officials are quite convinced of the desirability of having a national coinage, also of securing a fixed standard of value which shall save China from the losses which a fluctuating silver standard necessarily entails. The report of the American Commission on International Exchange, a very able document, has been duly laid before the Government of Peking, and we cannot doubt that it has been perused with attention. The arguments used in that report could not fail to appeal to the Chinese rulers. It showed how in the case of countries which have adopted a gold standard, trade largely increased, and instanced those of Russia and Japan as the most recent and striking. The Inspector-General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs has also recorded his opinion very strongly in favour of a gold standard, in a paper addressed by him to the Board of Foreign Affairs in 1903. In the course of this paper

Sir ROBERT HART declared:—"It would 'be much wiser for China to maintain a 'gold instead of a silver standard as at 'present, since silver has dropped down 'to such a degree, and, moreover, possesses 'no certain or uniform exchange, even 'within the limits of a single day. The 'hundreds of trades are all disastrously 'affected by the present state of the currency, while the Government having to 'pay its foreign debts in gold both country 'and people are being plunged into the 'depths of financial distress. The conditions pictured in the foregoing, therefore, 'compel one to seek some plan whereby 'they may be ameliorated, and so make it 'that China, while still using a silver 'currency, shall so fix a uniform exchange 'between silver and gold that there may be 'no danger of uncertain fluctuations." These representations have, we may be sure, had weight with the Chinese Government, who may even now be considering the subject. Unfortunately, however, procrastination is one of the darling sins of all Chinese officials, and while they are putting on their considering caps the country is being partially ruined.

It is much to be desired, therefore, that some external pressure should be applied, just to remind the Wai-wu-pu of the treaty obligations undertaken by the Imperial Government. We do not believe the Chinese officials have any desire or intention of evading the fulfilment of Article II. of the MACKAY Treaty, but they require stirring into action. Their intentions may be ever so good, but while the grass grows the steed may starve. The Chambers of Commerce of Hongkong, Shanghai, and Tientsin addressed a communication on this subject to the Foreign Ministers at Peking about a year ago, but as no action seems to have been taken it would be well to send in a fresh reminder of the desirability of action. Possibly this has already been done. Could not something also be attempted locally with regard to the currency? We in Hongkong are suffering from the same ills that afflict China, and as our trade is so intimately bound up with hers, we must, we are assured, row in the same boat. If China is prepared to join other Eastern countries in placing her currency on a gold basis while using a silver medium, we are ready to cast in our lot with her, but if by reason of intolerable and fatuous procrastination her decision is to be postponed to an indefinite period, then we should agitate for permission from the British Government to be placed on the same footing financially as the Straits Settlements, Siam, and the Philippines, our propinquity to China notwithstanding. In any case, however, whether China resolves to continue on a silver basis or to courageously adopt the same course as Japan, it is of the utmost importance that she should not delay longer the settlement of this question of her currency. On that point, at least, we are sure all persons must be agreed, whatever views as to the proper standard she ought to adopt may be entertained.

In the debate in Commons on the new tobacco duty Mr. Labouchere, M.P., said the foreign cigarette was more a necessity than a luxury. "It produced a similar effect to that produced by reading the Bible—(laughter)—it soothed and calmed the nerves and caused evil passions to fade away. He did not know which way he should vote on the amendment. Perhaps the best thing would be not to vote at all, but to leave the House and go and have a cigarette." So saying, Mr. Labouchere, amid roars of laughter, turned his back on the assembly, and gravely strode away in the direction of the smoking room.

EUPHRATES VALLEY RAILWAY.

(Daily Press, 26th July.)

Much has been written on the connection of India with the Mediterranean by rail since some seventy years ago Major, afterwards Lieut.-Col. CHESNEY, first mooted the project of a Euphrates Valley railway. For various reasons little has, however, been done. Although with an instinct, not altogether untrue, Lord PALMERSTON always opposed the then French project of the Suez Canal, and openly expressed his preference for the Railway, many obstacles intervened, which prevented the latter ever becoming *un fait accompli*. Equally imperial in his ideas, but infinitely more astute, Lord BEACONSFIELD seized the opportunity offered of obtaining a predominating interest in the affairs of the Canal, and as the Canal did for the time serve all purposes, and actually formed the quickest means of communication with India, England was very well content to let matters rest, the more especially as in the meanwhile she had become practically possessed of the political control of Egypt. It was not, then, till Russia succeeded in constructing a line through Siberia to Eastern Russia, and England's rapidity of communication with the Far East was challenged, that the old topic again forced itself into consideration in Great Britain.

Inspired with emulation on the successful attainment of her object in the completion of her new line to Eastern Asia, which Russia saw would enable her to interfere with greater ability in the affairs of China, whose fertile lands had already aroused her insatiable greed, Germany thought the time had come. She accordingly traced out a line to continue her present system in Western Anatolia to the mouth of the Euphrates, and obligingly asked England and France to assist in the financing. At first, thinking that the formation of the railway would tend towards rendering Germany independent of Russia; and that in her own interests she would feel disposed to restrain any further encroachments of that Power, England and France were disposed to lend a helping hand. Such, however, was far from Germany's intention; and on its being suggested to her that she would be required to undertake that no preferential treatment would be permitted, and that both countries should be adequately represented on the direction, she declined both proposals. This rendered the assistance of either out of the question, and the scheme eventually collapsed. Preferential treatment for traffic from Central and Eastern Europe was, in fact, the backbone of the affair, and every obstacle was to be placed in the way of traffic from the two western countries. Its collapse, however, has had the useful effect of once more attracting English attention to the subject, but as yet without the result of bringing forward any notable scheme. With Russia, in fact, dominant in Armenia there is but little ground left, and any line starting from the eastern extremity of the Levant would offer few advantages over present routes to compensate for its political drawbacks. An extension of the present Egyptian railways to Suakin has indeed been suggested, and would undoubtedly shorten by some eight hundred miles the present sea voyage to India, but half the Red Sea would still remain to be traversed, and it is very doubtful if the bare advantage of shortening the ocean voyage would compensate for the extra expense of making practically a new port, in addition to the breaking of the voyage. Under existing political conditions no port south of

Suakin is feasible, so that apparently the Empire must wait for some very decided change in the political position before England will be able to acquire for herself a practical land communication with her greatest dependency.

Recent improvements in land locomotion have thus not been altogether in favour of England, and she has had perforce to stand by while other nations, by nature more favourably situated, have been enabled to take advantage of those opportunities. It was, of course, by taking timely advantage of the ocean that Great Britain was able to consolidate her great possessions in the East; she has momentarily found the record for speedy delivery of the mails in the Far East passed out of her hands, and this, though as long as she possesses in her own hands the telegraphs and the command of the sea, is of secondary importance, yet is not consonant with the position she holds amongst nations. Naturally, then, as the present contract for carrying the Eastern Mails is on the verge of expiry the British Government had hesitated in renewing it on present lines, although for the moment it has insisted on shortening the time for delivery in the East by some twenty-four hours. In view of the changes made elsewhere this expedition seems but a small matter, but as it involves sea carriage at the rate of some seventeen miles an hour it is evident that on existing routes the limit of acceleration has been almost reached, and is already in sight. An Austrian engineer has proposed a new route traversing the Khanates of Central Asia, and then climbing the Pamirs and reaching China by way of Kashgar or Yarkand. In the present position of the political world such a line would be controlled by Russia, and would, of course, be principally used by her for aggressive purposes. We know from her present management of her line through the Khanates what that would imply for travellers other than Russian. A line over the Pamirs where the passes are upwards of 16,000 feet high involves engineering issues quite beyond our present experience. As far as England is concerned the line may at once be ruled out of the competition which must be confined within the limits of 15 degrees and 35 degrees north latitude. The proposed German line between the 40th and 30th has already for reasons mentioned been declined, so that practically no alternative is left except a line of railway crossing Arabia. A very few years ago, both physically and politically, such a line could not be considered as within the limits of practical politics, but events have been marching, which certainly have a tendency to remove the most formidable of the difficulties. In 1863, when W. G. PALGRAVE crossed the whole breadth of Arabia from the Red Sea to Bahrein in the Persian Gulf he found a well watered country, admirably suited for the construction of a railway. At the time it was dominated by the rule of the fanatical Wahabee dynasty, but the inhabitants were weary of the bigotry of the rulers, and the kingdom was already decadent. Since then Wahabee influence has still further declined and of late years has not attempted interference with commerce. PALGRAVE found the people everywhere keen traders, and had no difficulties with the people, who indeed throughout screened him from the minions of the government. Now within the last three years, without any conscious effort on the part of the Indian Government, our relations with these tribes have entered into a new phase; Turkey recently has been encroaching along the Eastern Coast, which came to a climax last year, when by the at-

tempted closure of Koeit we were brought into unpleasant contact with the intruding Turkish fleet. As we had always communicated with the ruler of Koeit as a perfectly independent potentate, and as under his friendly auspices relieved from Wahabee interference British trade with the interior of Arabia had been largely increasing, the commander of the British fleet had orders if necessary to interfere by force of arms. The result has been the growth of a markedly friendly feeling, and an expressed desire to facilitate intercourse.

Now it so happens that this track across Arabia from Bahrein to Mejaz on the Red Sea is actually the most ancient trade route of which we have knowledge; it was by this route that some seven thousand years ago civilisation was introduced into ancient Egypt, and it was by this road that bronze first found its way to Phœnicia, and thence by Tyrian and Carthaginian traders was carried all through Europe. The opening up of the route would then be only a return to primitive conditions. From Alexandria to Bahrein by this road would be about 1,200 miles, and from Bahrein to Karachi about 1,100, so that the total distance from Alexandria to India would be about 2,300 miles as against some 4,600 by the ocean route. The saving of time from the substitution of railway for steamer transit would be in a greater proportion.

The subject of a trans-Arabian railway is not of course one that stands out self recommended for immediate adoption; on the contrary, like the Cape to Cairo project, it is one where much opposition and many serious difficulties will remain to be overcome before it even enters on the arena of practical discussion. Still, however inchoate, it is hoped that like the other, first launched as an almost quixotic essay, it may be influential in directing men's minds beyond the immediate present to what in the present ever changing world of politics may shortly become a potential eventuality. If the Cape to Cairo route, but two years ago nothing more than the baseless fabric of a dream, have already advanced to bridging the Zambesi, why should its legitimate supplement, a railway from Cairo to Calcutta, be refused at least fair discussion?

THE DARDANELLES TREATY.

(Daily Press, 27th July.)

That Russia as a nation is not in the forefront of civilisation is a truism which few of her most prominent statesmen would perhaps care to deny. This, however, is hardly to be accepted as an excuse for her numerous acts inconsistent with what are usually accepted as the amenities due from one nation to another. All things may be lawful between nations as regulated by what is somewhat vaguely termed international law, but all things are not expedient, and Russia has been of late widely overstepping the limits which render possible the existence of even such a very elastic practice as that euphemistically called law in its international bearings. The proceedings of the Russian Mediterranean squadron in the early stages of the war with Japan, and her assumed right to stretch in her own interests the ordinary designation of "contraband" was an instance of this, and led to many protests, more especially from England, whose commerce she evidently considered as a thing to be interfered with on grounds of her own dictation. This was, however, a minor matter compared with her recent action founded on very similar ideas of her own power of dictation of right or wrong as

between one nation and another. Under one pretence or other Russia succeeded in having what she was pleased to call her "Volunteer Fleet" allowed, while engaged in private mercantile work, to be classed as merchant ships, pure and simple. It was not denied that the intention in building these ships was that in case of war they could be fitted up and used as armed cruisers. As other nations, and more especially England, built equally merchant ships so fitted up that in case of war they might be likewise utilised for warlike purposes, no objection was raised. As men-of-war they could not consistently with treaties acknowledged by Europe be permitted to pass in peace time through the Dardanelles, but the object being to facilitate, and not throw obstacles in the way of commerce, no objections were thrown in the way of their passage in their private capacity.

Affairs have not been going satisfactorily for Russia in her conflict with Japan, evidently entered on rashly and without consideration of the many advantages making for the Power on the spot. Russia has dealt with her difficulties characteristically. At any risk, and indifferent to the loss of life entailed, she has been hurrying troops from all quarters to Eastern Siberia; this, of course, is Russia's traditional way of campaigning. Against tribes on a lower stage of development than herself it has advantages, doubtless; opposed to a Power like Japan, where a marked capacity for organisation exists, it is really fighting the enemy's battle. Japan counts up every individual soldier, and counts how many she can afford to lose before entering on an engagement; and as a consequence the Russian administration has been from the beginning nonplussed, and uncertain how to strike. An instructive story is told of an old college don who, seeing one day that the students had caught hold of a bailiff who had intruded himself into the sacred precincts, saw them uncertain how he would look upon the affair and showing signs of dispersion. Forbidden by respect for authority to encourage a lawless act, yet as indignant as the Freshmen themselves at the insult to the College, he called out: "Don't nail his ears to the pump, boys." Russia has been trying on somewhat similar tactics. In the hope of getting someone to aid her against the "Yellow Peril," she has been explaining her views on the subject of an Oriental invasion of Europe, while at the same time exclaiming with very needless reiteration: "Nobody must come to my assistance, boys." One is irresistibly reminded of the drowning Frenchman, who called out in his agony: "I will be drowned and nobody shall save me." The Frenchman's cry arose not from any despair of want of sympathy, but because he had had a provincial instructor of English; the Russian's, from his want of appreciation of the fact that he had no sympathisers whatever. Like the Chinese, Russia is, however, extremely sensitive to the peculiar feeling denominated "loss of face," a feeling that has nothing in common with our Western idea of honour. The "Yellow Peril" and the "Don't help me" cries having proved ineffective in restoring the lost "Face," she has been driven to another, seemingly desperate, resource. Could she only get England to declare war against her! The idea is not so entirely preposterous as at the first glance it might appear. England has never been a match at poker for Russia, especially where the ordinary rules of play as between gentlemen are suspended; yet she has a foolish hankering after the game. Such things as riding for a fall are not altogether unknown on the turf, when a rider is driven to desperation;

and Russia's conduct in the affair of the capture of the *Malacca* was so evidently planned beforehand that we cannot regard it as the inspiration of the mere officer in command of the ship.

As apparently unarmed merchant vessels the two Volunteer vessels *Smolensk* and *St. Petersburg* presented themselves at the Dardanelles, and demanded permission to pass as merchant vessels flying the merchant ensign. Whether there was any collusion with the Porte does not appear; at all events it does not affect the immediate case. Showing no external sign of being armed men-of-war, the two ships were permitted to pass. At the entrance of the Suez Canal the two ships likewise presented themselves under the false guise of peaceful merchant ships. This seems to have been one of those needless yet deliberate lies which often betray the criminal intent of their utterer. Somewhere in the Red Sea the two ships took occasion to transform themselves into regular men-of-war; their guns taken from the hold's where they had been concealed were mounted, and the decks put in fighting trim. By way of getting their hand in, a German mail steamer was overhauled, and the portion of her mail intended for Japan taken out. We are not going to say that this seeming outrage had been already planned in conjunction with Berlin; we in fact do not believe it was, but the Russian Government felt from the course of recent negotiations with the German Government that it could, as in the case of the recent police laws, count on the strong sympathies of its neighbours for an easy adjustment of so slight a trespass. Apparently, from the tone of the German Press it was quite justified in its calculation. Having thus paved the way the real sensation of the act was to come off. The British steamer *Malacca* was actually going to Japan. Russia, though somewhat weakly invited by the British Government to name what she considered should be classified as contraband of war, declined to give any binding assurance, but kept the question open. As the British Government had by implication permitted to Russia the option of declaring contraband, and as Russia without any sufficient protest had declined to issue any binding rule, there was obviously no appeal left from the decision of any Russian prize court. So determined is Russia in her assertions, that she actually tows her prize flying the Russian flag through the Suez Canal. Evidently, as Russia expected, the British Government, instead of placing the affair in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, commenced to negotiate. This, anyone not in the entourage of the Foreign Office could see was just what Russia had been playing for. She could, as she had done with Japan, drag on the negotiations till Great Britain would be forced to go to war or retire ignominiously. Either alternative would answer admirably Russia's object. If England declared war, Russia would of course have little difficulty in engaging the sympathy of Germany; at all events her "Face" was preserved, she could without loss of prestige make a favourable arrangement with Japan, now that England was busy. If England, not willing to provoke a European war, were to retire, no matter how favourable the terms, Russia would lose no time in declaring it a concession to Russia's lordship. Now under long established law the outrage inflicted on England was one where the option lay with the aggrieved party to make it a *casus belli*, or merely a subject for reprisals. As our readers are aware, our Government

has, by its firm and dignified insistence, secured a satisfactory adjustment, without resorting to measures that the temper of some peoples would have made inevitable.

AN INTERNATIONAL MAGNA CHARTA.

(Daily Press, 28th July.)

There does not appear to be a prima-facial connection between international law and the custom of wearing mourning clothes; but some impatient comments that have recently appeared with regard to the first, and a new story recently told with reference to the second, appear to suggest an association almost intimate. The comments referred to partook of the nature of doubting allusions to the usefulness of international law, as having back of it neither an international law court nor an international police force to enforce its decrees. The story was of a woman in service who asked for a brief holiday, and an advance of money with which to "buy blacks," as her husband was dead. Her mistress kindly suggested that it would be waste of money. Had not the man ill-treated her and neglected her so that she had had to return to service? Was it possible that there could be any genuine regret for him? When did he die? "Oh! mum," the poor woman naively admitted, "he died nine months ago in jail, but I've just heard of it. I must go into blacks. It ain't respectable not to." With no more preamble, we may proceed, *in medias res*, to demonstrate the essential consanguinity of these two apparently incongruous matters, and thereby, possibly, point a moral. For while we have in these columns casually mentioned international law as a thing not yet perfectly developed, we have carefully refrained from alluding to it with the slightest tincture of disrespect. To it we look, and to it only, for help towards that brotherhood of man that the anti-war people prate of. They view the abolition of war as the necessary antecedent to universal fraternity, and so, to many practical minds, they seem as dreamers. In a bold paradox, it seems to us, is truth and hope to be looked for; and it is this—that the real federation of mankind is impossible without the sword. Some days ago we mentioned international law as an evolutionary product of the crude primal laws that must have antedated the Decalogue by millions of years, and it is obvious that it must have had such small beginnings. The original object of all legislation, whether a simple law upheld by a sheik, or a complicated system maintained by a nation, was, it must not be forgotten, the attainment of the greatest good of the greatest number. Law has ever been, and is now, primarily the protector of the social aggregate. Primarily, because it will at once occur to the reader that the modern law of civilization pays careful attention to the rights of the individual, protecting the weak against the strong, and, not infrequently, the minority against the majority. Its vital principle, however, is the communal well-being. It has been pointed out by some philosophers as one of necessity's inventions, and the idea has occurred in many minds, no doubt, that in the earliest communities to frame a code of conduct there must have been a sort of referendum, followed by the consent either of all or of a big majority. A relation of ANDREW LANG's has pictured for us the primal law as the arbitrary rulings of the fathers of the first families, small nomad bands, in which the strongest male made himself "a judge over Israel," and drove out of the circle the younger males who might show signs of

disputing his authority. Whatever its earliest beginnings, we have seen that law has gathered unto itself more than a mere collection of "thou shalt not's." It has attracted in course of time the "thou shalt's," which make of it an ethical system. Our concepts of right and wrong, the late Mr. HERBERT SPENCER would have told us, are also the fruits of evolution, acquired by generations of dwelling upon the consequences of infringements of the law. The forces of heredity deepened and confirmed the idea that certain actions inimical to the social organism were wrong, with the corollary that their opposites were right, until presently were men and women who did the right thing by instinct, or conscience, and refrained from doing the wrong in the same easy way, without having to stop to count the cost. Unfortunately, while such acquired instincts were being multiplied and developed, there was always that weak link in the chain that Mr. DARWIN had to reckon with, atavism. There was never a generation without some members in it who had harked back to the primitive instincts and impulses that were lawless because existent prior to law. Otherwise, with the moral instinct uniformly evolving, law as we know it would in time have disappeared with the disappearance of its necessity. For such "throws back," law is still required, and since such ethical "sports" are unable to appreciate the mere inhibitions of law as binding upon themselves, the arm of the law, which is force, compulsion, must perforce be still held up. The poor woman who felt she must wear mourning for a worthless and unloved husband was a subject of that transmitted subjunctive adaptation of the moral judgment to which we have referred, which we now call conscience. She did not belong to that order which is fain to regard all public opinion as Philistinism, and which, in setting up its own standards, frequently only betrays its atavistic tendency toward enmity to law. Were all of her cerebral capacity, the brotherhood of man would not be far off, and the principles of humanity would exercise a more effectual control over the actions of human-kind. In spite of a Tsar with an eye to the happiness of the majority, Russia seems to be, administratively, a nation not so amenable to the demands of conscience. What seems to be wanted, for such cases as hers, is another Hague Conference, with somewhat different ideals and objectives, or, at any rate, with a more commonsense programme of methods. English liberty was the direct outcome of baronial coercion at Runnymede. A Magna Charta of the nations is wanted. The KING JOHN-like reluctance of some governments to sign the arbitration scheme of the Tsar was quite excusable. It was not practical politics. Behind arbitration, until that instinct of right and wrong is universally developed, must always be war, as behind the judge and jury there must stand the police. With an alliance of all the nations, pledged to punish any defaulting Power, there would be greater certainty of international law being a living force. The mere reflection that certain things "ain't respectable" does not seem a sufficient restraint upon some diplomats.

H.B.M.'s Consul at Newchwang writes, on the 13th inst., as follows:—I have the honour to inform you that the ports of Canton, Hongkong, Swatow, Amoy and Foochow have been declared infected and that vessels arriving here from those ports after the 14th inst. will be liable to quarantine for ten days counting from the date of departure, after which they will be admitted to pratique unless a suspicious case occurs on board.

H.E. MR. F. H. MAY.

(Daily Press, 29th July.)

On the eve of the commencement of a new administration it is only fair that we should pause to briefly consider what has been done during the eight months which have elapsed since Sir HENRY BLAKE quitted these shores for Ceylon. Departing from usual precedent, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, recognising at once the exceptional circumstances—the absence of the General in Command of the Forces and the presence in the Colony of a Colonial Secretary of proved ability and long experience—appointed the Hon. F. H. MAY Officer Administering the Government, much to the satisfaction of the community generally. That departure from custom, that selection of an administrator has been amply justified by results. Mr MAY has shown by his acts, by his demeanour, and by his ready tact that he is well qualified both to conduct the business of administration and to maintain the dignity of the King's Representative. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council, in a calm but appreciative letter to His Excellency, have borne testimony to the excellent and satisfactory manner in which public business has been conducted, public works pushed on, and the wheels of administration kept going generally.

To that lucid statement there is really little for us to add. The work of legislation has been prosecuted with unflagging energy, and several measures of first-class importance have become law during His Excellency's period of office. The Peak Reservation Bill, which we may safely prophesy will prove a great boon to present colonists and a still greater to those of a future generation, was passed with the very minimum of opposition or criticism. ^{Sir Mr. J.} ^{and Master} Chinese it is true formed the ^{Chow} race legislation was intended, ^{but the} idea was happily dispelled. The Bill was simply introduced to secure that the very limited space on the upper heights, which has never been sought after by Chinese—who indeed entertain an aversion to the mists which too often envelop those regions—shall continue in the occupation of those persons bred in colder climes and who find it essential to their health to reside at an altitude. No idea of either placing Chinese at a disadvantage or of legislating specially on behalf of Europeans prompted the introduction of the Bill. It was stern necessity, if Europeans were to reside here for the lengthened periods now necessary under altered conditions of trade, and the local Government were prompt to recognise this fact. Not really that any apology is necessary, for though when the island was first acquired Chinese were freely invited to settle here for the purposes of trade, &c., it did not follow that, as in some parts of India, it would not be necessary to form some reservation for the residence of the British and foreign merchants and traders. Because this has not been done, and the Chinese are free to reside where they will in Victoria and elsewhere, that is no reason why a sanitarium on the heights should not be established for the use of Europeans who wither under the torrid heat of the plains. Mr. MAY saw the justice as well as the necessity of such a reservation, and did not hesitate to take the responsibility for the introduction of the Bill, which has since been approved by His Majesty the King. Mr. MAY with equal courage, when the petition from the ladies of the Colony praying that steps should be taken to secure the registration of servants was presented to him, quickly decided

that in view of recent legislation on the subject, he could not entertain the prayer of the memorialists until that legislation had been given a fair trial. This, too, in spite of the fact that His Excellency is a firm believer in the necessity for such registration and had advocated it when he was head of the Police Department. It was a pity, perhaps, that intimation of the probable fate of the petition could not have been given to the ladies who had worked to get it presented; but Mr. MAY, who as Administrator *pro tem.* no doubt felt that he could not proceed at once to upset the work of his predecessor, had probably been too busy to consider that phase of the matter. As we have said, his action in both these instances proves his fearlessness and independence, and goes to show that his conception of duty rises above preference, class, or race. That we shall always have as courageous and straightforward a Head of the Executive when a *locum tenens* becomes necessary we earnestly hope.

As was well known would be the case, Mr. MAY has, throughout his administration, shown an unfailing interest in all the affairs of the Colony, whether political, commercial, or social. There is not a department of the Government with which he is not well acquainted, nor is there any matter or question connected with its trade with which he is not intimate. The progress of the schemes for the augmentation of the water supply, the construction of the public buildings now proceeding, the development of the environs of Victoria, the opening up of Kowloon and the New Territory have all claimed his interest and attention. In Mr. MAY the movement to hurry forward the construction of the long-talked-of Kowloon-Canton Railway found a warm sympathiser and staunch friend. His Excellency, like Sir HENRY BLAKE, was prompt to recognise the extreme importance of putting a termination to the delays which have taken place in carrying out the work for which a concession was granted by the Government of Peking no less than six years ago. Mr. MAY has not hesitated to give his valuable support to the representations made on this subject by the China Association and the Chamber of Commerce, and we cannot doubt that the question has in consequence received fuller attention in London, though we are unaware of what has been done in the matter. Of one thing, however, we feel most thoroughly assured, namely, that any question affecting the welfare of this community, the present good or the future prospects of the Colony, will never fail to find a champion in Mr. F. H. MAY. Nor is it strange that this should be the case. His Excellency arrived here in his early manhood more than twenty years ago, and the best years of his life have been spent in the island. Here he was married, and his family has grown up around him in the Colony. He has been associated with the administration in one capacity or another during the whole of this long period; he has shared in the troubles that have afflicted the Colony and participated in its festivities; and there is no phase of its existence with which he is unacquainted. Mr. MAY would have sadly disappointed the expectations of his friends, of those who know him best, had he proved less capable, less thorough, less high minded, and less courageous than he has shown himself while invested with the supreme authority. He has more than fulfilled those expectations. Withal he has shown a natural capacity for playing the viceregal role without assumption, his natural dignity well fitting him for the part, and enabling him to maintain it without

effort and with a total lack of self-consciousness.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 25th July.)

The event of the week will be the arrival of Sir Mathew Nathan, and the ceremony of his installation as Governor of the Colony. Sir Mathew is expected on Friday by the P. & O. steamer *Nubia*, and will no doubt receive a fitting welcome from the general body of residents.

The meteorological marplot by causing the postponement last Thursday of Mrs. May's "At Home" at Mountain Lodge until this afternoon created widespread disappointment. We may be sure none regretted the necessity for the postponement more than H. E. the Officer Administering the Government, and Mrs. May. Fortunately there is a prospect of fine weather to-day, and as this will be the last function of a semi-public character during Mr. and Mrs. May's occupancy of the gubernatorial residences, every invited guest will doubtless make a point of being present.

It is officially notified that among others "The Hongkong Omnibus Company, Limited," will at the expiration of three months be struck off the Register and be dissolved unless cause is shown to the contrary. Few residents probably ever knew that such a company existed in Hongkong, but many will doubtless recollect omnibuses vainly trying to compete against jinrikishas in Queen's Road. The turn of the tram—the electric tram—has now come, and the prediction is safe enough that the tram has come to stay. Though it will not cause the convenient ricksha to disappear off the streets, it will command sufficient public patronage to make the enterprise remunerative, and the probability is that it will pay exceedingly well.

Let it be written, as it is undoubtedly felt in Hongkong, that it is pertinent to put the following question to the British and Chinese Corporation:—If it is possible to raise from British investors a loan of £1,500,000 towards the construction of the Shanghai-Nanking railway, which will be entirely in Chinese territory, how much easier ought it to be to raise the money required for the construction partly in British territory of that short but important line which is wanted to connect Kowloon with Canton?

Last week was productive of one of the most sensational Triad cases that the police have unearthed for several years. Comment is sometimes heard on the fact that the authorities are so much down upon Triads, who are a kind of Reformers, while Reformers such as Kang Yue Wei and others at present in the Colony are objects of the utmost police protection against possible assassination by Chinese emissaries from Canton. One reason for this appears to be that the Triads are looked upon as an organisation dangerous even to the European Government. They hold courts of justice (?) and try all sorts of cases, taking into their hands the powers vested in our Magistrates and Judges, and appointing members of their sect to carry these into effect, whether the sentences are civil, involving fine or blackmail, or summary chastisement of an offender against the Order.

Talking to me the other day on the disgraceful number of beachcombers in Hongkong, a Singapore man was extolling the superior methods adopted by the authorities down there in dealing with these undesirables. Said he, "When a suspicious looking character lands he is soon spotted by an officer of the law, who keeps him in sight, and by and bye accosts him and asks him where he is working. If the reply is unsatisfactory the man is taken to the police station, and if he is found to have no money or prospects he is bundled on to the next ship outward-bound. 'To Hongkong?' I suggested. 'Yea, generally,' was the reply. And yet they cast slurs on Hongkong's tolerance of the nuisance!"

In next year's estimates I hope there will be some allowance made for "Police Court improvements." The present Police Court was condemned some 17 years ago, and nothing seems to have happened since. Although it is wholly inadequate for the present requirements, some of its defects, at any rate, can be remedied without much expense. At present the magistrate sits at an ancient desk, before a patched-up wall that is covered with cobwebs. The floor of the court is dirty. At two small tables, immediately in front of the magistrate, sit the lawyers, policemen, sanitary inspectors, men from the Opium Farm, newspaper reporters, and others. There are twelve seats in all, and sometimes these are all occupied. The back part of the Court, behind the dock, is so small that the usual mob of Chinese spectators have barely standing room. The dock itself, where a herd of Chinese prisoners is usually to be seen, is in such a decrepit condition that a few days ago a prisoner had no difficulty in removing a couple of the rails and making a bid for liberty. Concerning those cobwebs, I am told "they" dare not attempt to brush them off for fear the wall will misbehave itself. If the Government has issued new orders enforcing economy of such stores as whitewash, disinfectants, etc., it cannot mean that no soap and water is to be applied to the floor. It seems very strange for a magistrate to punish a man for not keeping his premises clean, while himself dispensing justice, salutary and sanitary, beneath a canopy of cobweb and congregated dirt.

BANYAN.

THE WAR

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS]

THE "MALACCA."

RUSSIA TO PAY DAMAGES.

LONDON, 22nd July.

The *Malacca* has not been released. A reply to the demand for her release has not yet been received, but it is confidently expected that the demand will be complied with.

LATER.

Russia will not take the *Malacca* before a court for the formal examination of her cargo.

The Russian Government has undertaken that there shall be no repetition [of such seizures], and has agreed to pay damages.

On the question of the status of the steamers of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, and the passage of two of them through the Dardanelles, the Government is still in correspondence with the Government of Russia.

RUSSIAN CRUISERS TO DESIST.

LONDON, 25th July.

The *Malacca* proceeds to Algiers. The Russian "Conference" at St. Petersburg has decided to withdraw its authority from the volunteer cruisers to make such seizures. Meantime, the *Smolensk* has seized the British steamer *Ardova* in the Red Sea. The German steamer *Scandia*, which was taken to Port Said by a Russian crew, has been released there.

THE VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON.

LONDON, 25th July.

The Vladivostock squadron, during its last excursion, has sunk the British steamer *Knight Commander* (which left Manila for Japan on the 11th instant), and taken British and German steamer (unnamed) to Vladivostock.

THE DARDANELLE.

LONDON, 25th July.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, the Prime Minister, has stated in the House of Commons that the Dardanelles affair is causing

the Government grave anxiety. The signs, however, indicate a favourable issue.

ANOTHER SHIP RELEASED.

LONDON, 26th July.

The steamer *Ardova*, seized in the Red Sea, has been released by the Russians.

THE "KNIGHT COMMANDER."

LONDON, 26th July.

The *Times* describes the sinking of the steamer *Knight Commander* by the Vladivostock Squadron as a gross violation of international law.

TACHICHAU TAKEN.

LONDON, 26th July.

Tachichau has been captured by the Japanese, after hard fighting, in which each side lost about 3,000 men. The Japanese are marching on Liaoyang in two columns, following separate routes.

ANOTHER SEIZURE.

LONDON, 27th July.

The Volunteer cruiser *Smolensk* has seized the P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, eastward bound, and taken her to Suez. There is some dissension at St. Petersburg, and the Russian authorities are doing all they can to evade a settlement of the questions raised by Great Britain.

A BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

LONDON, 27th July.

The P. & O. steamer *Formosa* has been released at Suez. The P. & O. steamer *Malacca* has arrived at Algiers.

A sensation was created in the House of Commons this afternoon by an announcement by the Prime Minister (Mr. Balfour) that the sinking of the British steamer *Knight Commander* off the coast of Japan raised the question as to whether this was not a breach of international law. He feared it was.

[REUTER'S SERVICE.]

THE TSAR'S INTERVENTION.

LONDON, 23rd July.

Reuter's correspondent in St. Petersburg says it is stated that the Russian promise that no British ships shall in future be interfered with by the Volunteer cruisers is largely due to the influence of the Tsar, with whom Count Lamsdorff consulted on Thursday after an interview with the French Ambassador.

[JAPANESE OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.]

ANOTHER JAPANESE SUCCESS.

TOKYO, 23rd July.

General Kuroki reports that on the 18th inst. a column began operations with a view to occupying Hsihoyeng, a place on the Liaoyang road, north of Lienshankwan. The Russians had constructed strong defence works, and were posted on eminences that slope eastward and command the defile. The Japanese main column advanced on this front, and began with artillery at dawn on the 19th inst. The enemy replied with 32 field guns. The attacking force sent a detachment, meanwhile, over a steep mountain pass to menace the Russian right flank. The defenders fought stubbornly, and a sanguinary battle ensued. By 5.39 p.m., the main force of the Japanese had broken through, capturing the Russian position on the hills north-west of Hsihoyen. The defeated portion of the Russian defence found its retreat cut off by the Japanese left wing; and at eight o'clock, Hsihoyen and its vicinity was successfully occupied by the attacking force. The main body of

the Russians retired, confused and broken, towards Anping. The Japanese casualties were 72 killed (including two officers) and 452 wounded (including 16 officers.) The Russians left 131 dead on the field, and their total casualties are estimated at over a thousand. In this engagement the Russian forces consisted of the infantry of the 34th and 36th regiments, and one Cossack regiment, with 32 field guns.

THE BATTLE OF TASHIKIAO.

TOKYO, 27th July.

General Oku reports that on the 24th instant, the Japanese army attacked the Russian forces posted on the Tapingling and other eminences near Tashikiao. The enemy had prepared strong defence works, and its line of operations extended about ten miles, east and west. The Russians had about five Divisions so posted, with at least a hundred pieces of artillery. The Japanese right wing debouched on the hills to the south-west, about three kilometres (nearly two miles) from Tapingling. An artillery duel opened the engagement. The Japanese front had to endure a hot fire until dark, the lie of the land not permitting their artillery full play. At ten p.m. the right wing advanced, and by a series of rushes managed to dislodge the enemy from its main position. Fighting continued until daybreak, by which time the Japanese had stormed and captured all the heights commanding Tashikiao. Casualties were found to be, approximately, eight hundred. The General's last message stated that the Russians were retiring on Tashikiao, with the Japanese pursuit pressing.

TOKYO, LATER.

The Japanese Commander-in-Chief in Manchuria reports that Newchwang was occupied by his forces on the 25th instant. The first to occupy was a cavalry detachment. This, with an infantry detachment sent after it, was subsequently withdrawn to Newchiatun, about three miles from Newchwang; and Newchwang was left in possession of only such troops as were deemed sufficient to "police" the place.

TOKYO, 28th July.

General Oku reports that on the 25th inst. our army pursuing the enemy advanced to North of Tashikiao. The enemy retreated northward. Tashikiao and Newkiatun are ablaze.

WAR ITEMS.

RUMOURED SEIZURES.

A rumour was about the Colony yesterday to the effect that the Swedish s.s. *Victoria* and the Norwegian s.s. *Daphne* have been seized up North by the Japanese.

It is also rumoured that the s.s. *Fu Ping*, belonging to the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., has been seized by the Japanese.

The *Victoria* is a vessel of 989 tons net. She was built at Elsinore in 1884.

The *Daphne* is a vessel of 988 tons, and was built at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1900.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

Up to the 18th inst. the Japanese had buried two hundred Russians at Motienling, and made sixty-one prisoners, including thirty-two wounded. H. M. the Emperor has sent a message to the Second Division warmly appreciating its successful repulse of the Russians at Motienling. —[N.C. Daily News.] Further telegrams to the same paper say Port Arthur is to be bombarded soon; that the Vladivostock squadron was demonstrating on the Pacific side of Tsugaru on July 20th; and that the Russians sank the *Takashima Maru* on the morning of the same date.

THE "HIPSANG."

It appears the steamer *Hipsang* did not strike a mine, but was captured. The crew have been released.

The *Hipsang* was of 1658 tons register, and her foreign officers were Captain Bradley; Mr. A. G. Smith, chief officer; Mr. A. J. Cartwright, second officer; Mr. F. J. Collier, chief engineer; Mr. H. Watson, second engineer; and Mr. W. Bishop, third engineer.

THE "TAKASHIMA."

On the 29th inst. at 6.30 a.m. a Japanese steamer, the *Takashima Maru*, 318 tons, was sunk by the Vladivostok squadron off Isoya, about 25 miles east of Hakodate. The crew landed at the promontory of Yesan to take shelter, and they are all safe.

THE INDO-CHINA STEAMER "HIPSANG."

With reference to the various rumours afloat regarding this steamer, Messrs Jardine, Matheson have addressed us as follows: We beg to advise having received a telegram from Shanghai to the effect that although no definite news has been received, our friends there are informed on good authority that the steamer was torpedoed by the Russians on the 16th inst. All the foreigners on board as well as most of the Chinese are reported to be saved and have been taken to Port Arthur. The steamer is fully covered in London against war risk. [Port Arthur as the destination of the crew looks like a mistake.—ED.]

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 23rd July.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ACTION FOR RETURN OF SHARES.

The Court took up the adjourned hearing, in the matter of Wong Tat Hing ex parte Wong Hoi Shan, of the application by the Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd) for the surrender of 15 shares in the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., by Li Chang Chow. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), appeared on behalf of the Official Receiver; Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master solicitors), appeared for Li Chang Chow.

The case had been adjourned to allow of the following point being considered. Assuming that Li Chang Chow had no knowledge or notice of any available act of bankruptcy on the part of Wong Tat Hing on March 4, 1903, when the money was advanced on the security of the depositing of the shares, does the doctrine of the relation back of the trustee's title invalidate the transaction, if it was *bona fide* on the part of Li Chang Chow? It is to be assumed that Wong Tat Hing committed an act of bankruptcy on February, 1903, prior to the act upon which the petition was founded.

Mr. Pollock said that he was very anxious to do all that he could in the interest of the general creditors of the estate. He had looked very carefully into the point to see what course he would adopt. He had to confess, however, that the authorities on the point were so strong that he felt justified in assuming that Li Chang Chow would be entitled to obtain from the proceeds of the sale of the shares the money he had advanced on them. That being so he could do nothing further on behalf of creditors. It certainly seemed strange that the bankrupt should have borrowed the money on the shares only a day before he committed the act of bankruptcy, and in the interests of the creditors he thought the action should have been brought forward.

The Chief Justice—You are quite right. It was a very suspicious transaction for a man to get \$7,500 one day, and then go bankrupt the next day. It was a matter which, in the interest of the public and creditors, should have been inquired into. Now we have done so, and, I am bound to say that I have not a shadow of a doubt that the debtor got the money from the purchaser of the shares and drew his money from the bank with a view of keeping it away from the creditors. There are two sides to it, however. There was no mercy to be shown to the debtor. There were certain transactions which were protected if they were *bona fide*, and I am bound to say that in this case Li Chang Chow gave his evidence

in an unusually straightforward manner, and I have come to the conclusion that he was quite ignorant of the debtor's financial position at the time that he advanced him the money on the security of the shares. I think it comes within section 42 of the Bankruptcy Act, New Edition. The position simply is this: There was an act of bankruptcy committed upon which the petition was framed on March 5th, 1903; then a receiving order was made on April 28th. It has been shown that in addition to the special act of bankruptcy, mentioned in the petition, there was a prior act of bankruptcy—that he had previously absented himself from the Colony in February. Therefore I think there was a previous act of bankruptcy in February. By section 36 the trustee's title *prima facie* relates back to the first act of bankruptcy, thus it relates back to February. Therefore *prima facie* any transactions by the bankrupt in February would be invalid, unless he is in a position to show that it is one of those transactions which come within section 42 of the present Bankruptcy Ordinance, No. 7 of 1901. Mr. Slade contends that it did come within the section as being a transaction, dealing, or contract made with the bankrupt for valuable consideration, and that it comes within the proviso that the transaction was to occur before the date of the receiving order, that is before April 23, and that there must have been at the time no notice of any available act of bankruptcy committed. I have come to the conclusion that there was no available notice, from the way Li Chang Chow gave his evidence. He declared that he did not know anything about this act of bankruptcy. Under the circumstances it seems to be a protected transaction, and the result is that he is entitled to have his \$7,500 paid to him. I take it that the proper course will be to hand over the scrip to the Official Receiver, and that the Official Receiver will probably sell them, and out of the purchase money he would pay Li Chang Chow \$7,500. Any further claim he must prove in the usual manner.

Mr. Slade contended that Li Chang Chow was entitled to interest. It was a mortgage bearing interest, and the interest and principal were on exactly the same footing. He was in the same position as if he were suing for it. He sues on the mortgage of the shares for the principal and interest. The terms were practically the same as of any mortgage.

The Chief Justice—I should like to see some authority on that.

Mr. Slade submitted that it was a question of legal right.

Mr. Pollock agreed that he was entitled to interest.

The Chief Justice—Will the shares realise sufficient to pay the principal and interest?

Mr. Slade—No. There will be a shortage of \$100, and this amount he will have to prove.

The Chief Justice—He is in the position of a secured creditor.

After further argument, the Chief Justice said—What I have to decide is: Assuming that Li Chang Chow had no knowledge or notice of any available act of bankruptcy on the part of Wong Tat Hing on March 4, 1903, when the money was advanced on the security of the depositing of the shares, does the doctrine of the relation back of the trustee's title invalidate the transaction, if it was *bona fide* on the part of Li Chang Chow? It is to be assumed that Wong Tat Hing committed an act of bankruptcy on February 1903, prior to the act upon which the petition was founded. I decide that he is entitled to succeed on the issue. The relation back of the trustee's title does not invalidate the transaction. My own opinion is that the enquiry was a proper one in the interest of the creditors, and I allow the taxed costs of both sides to come out of the estate.

The Chief Justice afterwards drew attention to the fact that the newspapers had misquoted him in Friday's report of the above case. The words "relational act of the trustee title" should have been "relation back of the trustee's title."

This is the return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 24th July, 1904.—222 non-Chinese and 74 Chinese to the former, and 94 non-Chinese and 1,595 Chinese to the latter institution.

Wednesday, 27th July.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

LAND COURT CASE.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors), appeared in support of an application to adduce further evidence in the matter of the claim of Tang Tsz U, 54, Hollywood Road, to land in the New Territory in C. A. Survey District, as against the Attorney-General.

The Chief Justice said he understood that an order had been agreed upon subject to the approval of the Court.

Mr. Slade stated that the Crown had agreed.

The Chief Justice said he had gone carefully into the proposed order, which provided that the appellant's affidavit should be filed before 18th August and the respondent's on 1st September, and that the case be set down for hearing on 12th September. As both parties were desirous that this order should be made it seemed to him fair and right that the permission sought should be granted.

BAMBOO POLES ON THE SIDEWALKS.

Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley Crown Solicitor), appeared in support of an appeal by Wai Chung, appellant, and Hung Hoi, respondent, against the decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, magistrate, in dismissing a case in which the respondent was charged with carrying a bamboo pole on the pavement. The Attorney-General stated that at the Police Court on 27th May, and 16th June, 1904, an information preferred by Wai Chung, the appellant, under Section 2, sub-section 11, of Ordinance No. 14 of 1845, charging the respondent with unlawfully carrying a bamboo pole on the public footpath at Praya East, such pole being calculated to annoy and incommode passengers thereon, on 17th May, which information was dismissed by Mr. Gompertz. The appellant being dissatisfied with the Magistrate's decision as being erroneous in point of law, applied for a case to be stated under section 99 of the Magistrates Ordinance. Mr. Gompertz, upon the hearing of the information, found as a fact that about 5.45 p.m. on 17th May respondent was walking on the public footway on Praya East near the entrance to Tai Wo Lane, that the respondent was then carrying on his shoulder a large bamboo carrying pole; that it was carried in such a way as to obstruct the footpath and to be calculated to annoy and incommode passengers thereon; that the pole was not being carried by the respondent for the purpose of being housed or for the purpose of being loaded on any cart or carriage on the other side of the footway. The Magistrate further found as a fact that the pole was used by the respondent, a carrying coolie, as a tool or implement of his trade. On the part of the appellant it was contended that the general purpose of the Ordinance was to make provision for the good order and cleanliness of Hongkong and its dependencies by prohibiting nuisances in public thoroughfares; that among such nuisances was the obstruction of public roads or footpaths in various ways, as by placing merchandise thereon, putting out poles or blinds, riding, driving, or leading horses across the footpath; that in sub-section 11 of section 2 the general words "other thing" were not limited in their meaning by the specific words "barrel, cask or butter" which preceded them, because being read as they should be with the words "calculated to annoy or incommode" which immediately follow them, it was clear that the genus contemplated by the Ordinance consisted of "anything calculated to annoy or incommode," and would therefore include anything whatsoever so calculated, such for instance as a coolie's large hat or an umbrella carried over a man's shoulder in a manner calculated to annoy or incommode passengers, that the exception "for the purpose of housing them or of loading any cart or carriage" should not be held to limit the meaning of the words "other thing calculated to annoy or incommode"; and that a bamboo pole as carried by the respondent on the footpath

being a thing calculated to incommode or annoy passengers thereon was an obstruction within the meaning of the Ordinance. The Magistrate however was of opinion that the general word "thing" following the specific words "barrel, cask, or butt," took its meaning from them and must be presumed to be restricted to articles of the same genus. He held therefore that the evidence given before him did not bring the case within the operation of section 2, sub-section 11, of the Ordinance, and he gave his decision accordingly. The question of law arising in the above statement for the opinion of the Appeal Court was whether the term "other thing" as used in this sub-section of the Ordinance could be so construed as to include the bamboo pole carried by the respondent.

Proceeding to his argument the Attorney-General said it was in the first place to be observed that the general words of sub-section 11 of section 3 of Ordinance 1 of 1845 were not limited to the words "or other thing" as the learned Magistrate appeared to think. The general words were "or other thing calculated to annoy or incommode" the passengers upon a public footway. The class of objects, or the genus, against which the sub-section was directed included everything, whatever it might be, which was calculated to annoy or incommode passengers using a footway. The general words "or other thing calculated to annoy or incommode" could not therefore be restricted to things *ejusdem generis* with "barrel, cask, butt." To so construe the sub-section would in effect be to hold that it was no offence against the sub-section to drag along a footpath a bundle of long bamboo or fir poles, because neither was *ejusdem generis* with either a barrel, a cask or a butt. It was however submitted that the genus, the class of objects contemplated by the Ordinance, was not the limited genus within which came barrel, cask or butt, but the wider genus which comprehended everything, including of course barrels, casks and butts, which was calculated to annoy or incommode passengers using the public footway. But even if the words "calculated to annoy or incommode passengers" had been absent from the sub-section, even if the general words had been confined to the words "or other thing," those words would not be restricted in their meaning by the words "barrel, cask or butt," because it was clear from the scope and intention of the Ordinance that those words were not used in the limited order of ideas to which the words "barrel, cask or butt" belong; that was to say, it was clear on a consideration of the whole section that sub-section 11 was not intended to be limited in its scope to such things only as were *ejusdem generis* with barrel, cask and butt, because it would be futile legislation to forbid a barrel to be rolled along a footway but to permit a large bundle, of long poles, for instance, to be drawn along the footway. Without the words "calculated to annoy or incommode passengers," it would still have clearly appeared that the object of the legislation was to prevent passengers using the public footway from being annoyed or incommoded by things being carried or rolled upon it. Moreover the use of the word "carries" as well as the word "rolls" indicated that the sub-section had a wider scope than it would have if it were limited to barrels, casks, butts and things *ejusdem generis* therewith, because barrels, casks, butts and such like usually were not carried but rolled. The word "carried" must therefore be taken as referring to other genera than the genus within which barrels, casks and butts are comprised. The sub-section therefore must be construed as prohibiting the rolling upon the public footway of any barrel, cask or butt or the like, and also as prohibiting the carrying on the public footway any other thing calculated to annoy or incommode passengers. A case strongly in point was *Skinner v. Shew*, where it was held that having regard to the object of section 32 of the Patents Act, 1883, in construing the reference to "threats" of legal proceedings by "circulars, advertisements or otherwise," the words "or otherwise" were not to be restricted to threats by measures *ejusdem generis* with circulars and advertisements, but were to be regarded as extending the previous words so as absolutely to prohibit any

threats whatever of legal proceedings unless speedily followed up by an action. Further, the general scope and object of section 3, the intention of which was to prevent nuisances of various kinds in public places, required that the words "or other thing" should not be restricted in meaning by the words preceding. The words should be given the fullest and most extended meaning. A case strongly in point was *R. v. Edmundson*, where Statute 17 of George III, cap. 58, which authorised justices to issue search warrants for stolen goods suspected to be concealed "in any dwelling-house, outhouse, yard, garden or other place," was held to include under the last words "other place" a warehouse which was a mile and a half from the dwelling-house. Ordinarily a warehouse would not be considered *ejusdem generis* with a dwelling-house, but in this case it was held to be reasonable, having regard to the preamble to the general object of the statute, to think that the warehouse was within the contemplation of the Legislature as a likely place for concealment. So now it was submitted that a long bamboo pole carried over the shoulder which the Magistrate found as a fact was carried by the respondent in such a way as to obstruct the footpath and to be calculated to annoy and incommode the passengers must, having regard to the object of the section which was to prevent nuisances upon the public footways, be regarded as having been in the contemplation of the Legislature when it forbade by the 11th sub-section the carrying of things calculated to annoy or incommode. A narrower construction would restrict the effect of section 3 of the Ordinance. The paramount object of section 3 was to prevent persons using the footways from being annoyed or incommoded. That object should, if the language was susceptible of such a construction, be given effect. Cases in point were mentioned in Maxwell on the "Construction of Statutes," p. 480. The cases *Eastwood v. Miller* (L.R.G., Q.B., 440) and *Bows v. Fenwick* (L.R., 9 C.P., 339) were in point; also *Shillits v. Thompson*, 1 Q.B.D. 12.

The Puisne Judge asked if a Volunteer carrying a rifle would come under this sub-section.

The Attorney-General replied that he certainly would.

The Puisne Judge asked if his market coolie carrying a leg of mutton would come within the meaning of the sub-section.

The Attorney-General said the coolie would, even though it was the very best Australian mutton.

The Chief Justice remarked that they would have to find out if it was calculated to annoy.

The Puisne Judge asked if his valet—supposing he had one—was carrying his portmanteau along the footpath, would he come within the meaning of the Ordinance.

The Attorney-General replied that he certainly would.

The Puisne Judge asked the Attorney-General to suppose that a Chinaman was carrying salt-fish which smelt along the footpath: would he come within the sub-section?

The Attorney-General answered that he did not think olfactory offences came within the section.

The Chief Justice said that if one were walking close to him in the highway it would have the same effect.

The Attorney-General asked the Court if a 40 feet spear being carried along the pavement would not be calculated to annoy? Personally he should be extremely incommoded.

The Puisne Judge held that the real point was whether it was aimed at in this sub-section.

The Chief Justice was of opinion that it aimed at keeping the pavement free from physical impediments. They must in such cases trust to the commonsense of the police and the Magistrate.

The Puisne Judge said everybody admitted that a bamboo pole would annoy and incommode; but, he repeated, does it come within this section?

The Attorney-General held that it did. Where two constructions of an Ordinance were possible, he said, it was the duty of the Magistrate to adopt that construction which would promote and not defeat the object of the Ordinance. To strain the meaning of the Act

as passed by the Legislature was to defeat the Act.

The Puisne Judge asked whether it was not the Crown that was attempting to strain the language of the Ordinance. He supposed the Attorney-General agreed that a barrel, cask or butt was a thing calculated to annoy or incommode?

The Attorney-General said he most decidedly did, especially if it rolled between one's legs.

The Puisne Judge contended that the words "or other thing" would render unnecessary, on that construction, the words "barrel, cask or butt."

The Attorney-General admitted that it could have been made short by simply saying that "anything rolled or carried." The object of the Legislature was not directed to barrels, casks and butts alone, but they were included for the purpose of the Ordinance among the things calculated to annoy or incommode.

The Puisne Judge asked if the sub-section would refer to a dripping umbrella?

The Attorney-General held that it would, if the umbrella was big enough. If it was a doll's umbrella the Magistrate would dismiss the case, but not so if it was a huge umbrella such as he had seen the Chinese use.

The Chief Justice agreed that in such cases a lot had to be left to the discretion of the police.

The Puisne Judge said this was a legal point, and the question was, Should it be left to the discretion of the police? He was in favour of stopping this sort of thing, but had they the power to stop it? This was a very difficult case, and as it had only been brought before him that day he preferred to defer his judgment.

The Chief Justice stated that he was quite prepared to give judgment then, but in deference to his learned brother he would defer his judgment also.

The Court adjourned *sine die*.

Thursday, 28th July.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR COSTS.

In the matter of Wong Tak Hing, ex parte Wong Hoi Sang, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors, appeared in support of an application for payment of costs of Messrs. H. Skott & Co., merchants, in action No. 29 of 1903. The application, he said, was made under section 33, sub-section 2, of the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

His Lordship asked the Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd) if he had any objection to the granting of the application?

The Official Receiver replied that he had heard of the application only that morning. He had looked through the bill of costs and had no objection to it.

His Lordship—What is the figure?

Mr. Bowley—\$15,000.

His Lordship—And you say that by your action you succeeded in saving property to the value of \$15,000 to the debtors?

Mr. Bowley—Yes.

His Lordship allowed the payment of costs as taxed.

A COMPOSITION.

Mr. J. S. Harston, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors, appeared for the petitioning creditor and the Official Receiver and made an application for approval of a proposal for a composition in the matter of the Tung Chan firm, ex parte the Sui Kat Bank. Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, solicitors, represented the Chartered Bank, and Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. John Hastings's office, appeared for Un Oi Yu, of the Kwong Yuan firm, who proposed to take over the bankrupts' business and pay a composition of 66 per cent.

In his opening statement Mr. Harston said he had filed an affidavit showing that Un Oi Yu proposed to effect the composition by giving promissory notes payable in four instalments within five months. The Official Receiver had made a report upon the case. On 2nd June an application was made on behalf of the petitioning creditors for withdrawal of the petition for a receiving order on the ground that Un Oi Yu had made a proposal for settlement of the

firm's debts which was satisfactory to all the debtors. This application was refused. In his affidavit he put the number of Chinese debtors at 36; but up to date 47 had proved their debts, and the number set out in the settlement was 72, while at the confirmatory meeting 44 Chinese debtors voted.

His Lordship said that if he had allowed the application he would have been acting on a false affidavit. It was stated that this declaration contained the names of all the creditors, whereas it only contained half. It showed how very careful one ought to be in making out such affidavits.

Mr. Harston stated that when he drew up the affidavit he did so on the information supplied to him. He did not know anything about there being 72 debtors instead of 32.

His Lordship said he did not suggest that Mr. Harston did know, but it showed how careful one ought to be in drawing up affidavits unless one knew all about it.

Mr. Harston proceeding to read the Official Receiver's report said it was the stated that Tung Chan was an old-established firm of sugar merchants trading between Java, Singapore and Hongkong and North China and Japan. The manager declared that he was not a partner and had no interest in the firm except as manager. The insolvency was attributed by him to the falling prices of sugar, the closing of ports in the North owing to the war, and loss on exchange. The assets amounted to \$511,185, and the liabilities were said to amount to \$842, 92 of which \$70,000 was secured. Preferential claims for rent, wages, etc., amounted to \$17,667, and the unsecured debts upon which the 66 per cent. was to be paid to \$724,525. Goods to the value of \$78,208 had already been sold under contracts still good. The remainder of the goods in possession of the Official Receiver had been valued by the manager at \$381,434 but Messrs. Goddard and Douglas reported that the value in their opinion was \$537,685. Deducting the sum of \$37,667 to be paid to the secured creditors there was left \$499,118. The 66 per cent. to be paid to the unsecured creditors amounted to \$478,186, and there was therefore an apparent surplus in favour of Un Oi Yu of \$18,932. Un Oi Yu stated that he expected to lose \$30,000 on the transaction, which loss he was willing to undergo for the sake of his late brother-in-law Chu Lee, of the bankrupt firm, and it was that statement which no doubt had influenced the creditors to accept the composition. The main objection to the proposal was that the whole of the assets, amounting to over half a million dollars, would be handed over to Un Oi Yu without his having to pay anything whatever in cash and with no security except that of himself and his firm. The Official Receiver said he had asked him to pay half the composition in cash, but he declined to do this and adhered to the terms of the composition. All the creditors believed in the integrity of Un Oi Yu and of his firm, and that this composition was for the greatest benefit of the creditors. The Chartered Bank and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank were both in favour of this composition.

Mr. Looker said the Chartered Bank was in favour, and he thought the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank as well. His Lordship remarked that he saw the position exactly. The difficulty was that the creditors, knowing all the facts and being in favour of accepting this composition, were going to part with the available assets and get promissory notes in exchange. He took it, however, that when the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Chartered Bank were in favour of it they must know perfectly well whether or not this man who was wishing to give the promissory notes was a man who could be relied upon. If they were satisfied upon these points and the creditors were in favour he did not think it would be right for him to step in and prevent this arrangement being carried out. He understood this was a bankruptcy affecting other parts besides Hongkong; it was a large firm having branches in different places. It was a very complicated matter, but if the creditors were in favour of this scheme being carried out, and it was carried by the requisite majority and confirmed later on, he thought, in view of the report of the Official Receiver, that he should allow it. He under-

stood the Official Receiver thought it would be in the interests of the creditors that this should be allowed.

The Official Receiver said he did think so. He had seen a great many of the creditors and they told him it was their wish that the scheme should be carried through.

Mr. Harston added that he held proxies for creditors representing \$635,000, and they were all in favour of it.

Mr. Looker stated that the Chartered Bank were creditors to the extent of \$45,000 and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to the extent of \$56,000.

His Lordship remarked that this was a curious way of doing business. He could not remember a case where a number of promissory notes were given in exchange for substantial assets. Still it was a matter for the creditors themselves. They all wished it, and if there was any loss it would fall upon them. He could not fairly ask the gentleman who proposed this to do something different from the composition.

Mr. Harston was afraid that he would not consent to anything else.

His Lordship said that in that case he might say he approved of the composition. The application was made by the petitioning creditors. If it had been made by the debtors he would not have sanctioned it.

The Court adjourned.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 28th inst. in the Board Room. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. P. N. Jones (Vice-President), Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Fung Wa Chun; Mr. A. Rumjahn; Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Dr. W. W. Pearse, Medical Officer of Health; Dr. H. A. Macfarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. T. A. Hammer (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

A CONTRACTOR.

An application from Mr. Wong A Chi, contractor, requesting that his name be placed on the list of authorised contractors was considered.

The applicant in his letter stated that he has been a contractor in connection with Government sewers since 1902.

The application was granted.

THE NEW HONGKONG HOTEL BUILDING.

An application for permission to erect 24 water-closets and seven urinals at the new building for the Hongkong Hotel Co., Reclamation Marine Lot No. 7, was considered.

Hon. D.P.W. minuted: It would be as well to know whether this (the proposed) well failed last dry season, and what is the depth of it, and the approximate yield in the winter months. Some of the Praya wells are not inexhaustible.

The PRESIDENT said that a report had been received from the Surveyor saying that none of these reclamation buildings ever went short of water in this respect. The well for the new building had not yet been sunk. He moved that the application be granted conditionally.

The application was so granted.

APPLICATION FROM PEDDER STREET.

An application for permission to erect six water-closets and three urinals at No. 2, Pedder Street, was considered.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted: Grant subject to an independent supply of water being obtained for flushing purposes.

Col. Webb minuted: Grant provided the sewers are first tested, and found to have no leakage.

Hon. Registrar-General minuted: The danger of water-closets is now generally admitted. Is it not feasible to have soil removed from a building like this by coolies?

The PRESIDENT explained that if these premises were used as apartments they would accommodate 25 Europeans and Americans, and if they were used as offices about 25 Europeans would be employed there. The premises belonged to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. and they proposed to have an independent water supply.

Hon. REGISTRAR-GENERAL said it would be well to find out definitely whether or not these premises were to be used by Europeans. Water-closets of this description were as a rule only allowed in clubs and buildings occupied by Europeans.

Hon. POLLOCK agreed with Hon. Registrar-General.

Col. WEBB advised that the drains be tested so that there should be no leakage.

The PRESIDENT said that the sewer, would be very short in length; the drains were tested.

It was decided to find out definitely what class of people were going to occupy the building.

APPLICATION GRANTED.

Further correspondence re the application for a modification of the requirements of Section 153 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in respect of a room in the servants' quarters of No. 15, Queen's Road Central, was laid on the table.

The application was granted conditionally.

BACK YARDS.

Applications for exemption from the requirements of Section 175 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in respect of back yards of Nos. 3, 5, 7, and 9, Gage Street, was considered.

A modification was required regarding No. 8 and exemption was granted.

"IMPUDENCE."

An application for a modification of the requirements of Section 180 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in respect to the back-yard space of Nos. 4, 6 and 8, Straight Street, Sham Shui Po, was considered.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted: A very impudent attempt to get over the required open space. The total area of space provided amounts to only 513 square feet for a roofed-over area of 3,225 square feet. Refuse application.

Hon. Registrar-General minuted: It would be better to resume these lots and lay them out differently.

Hon. D. P. W. minuted: Is it possible to build in accordance with the ordinance?

Mr. RUMJAHN said he thought this a piece of barefaced, audacious impudence; and he went into details showing that the applicants were trying to evade the sanitary conditions laid down by the Ordinance.

The PRESIDENT after a little time said it was not necessary for Mr. Rumjahn to go further.

The application was refused.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

An application for exemption from complying with the requirements of Section 154 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in respect of the top floor of No. 209, Queen's Road East, was considered.

The M.O.H. minuted: I think the Board should refuse, as a skylight can easily be put in to light the cubicle and render it a legal room.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted: The premises in question are far better lighted and ventilated than most of the buildings situated in narrow lanes recommended by the M.O.H. for exemption.

Col. Webb minuted: I agree with the opinion given by the M.O.H.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted: The Chinese have been given to understand that where they have an eight-foot yard, or a side-lane of that width, they could apply for exemption. I am in favour of granting this application.

Hon. Registrar-General minuted: I agree with the M.O.H. Who gave the Chinese to understand?

Hon. D. P. W. minuted: I think the number of skylights should be kept down. They have a tendency to weaken the roof, or at any rate to give a better chance to a strong wind. I have been endeavouring to have them built of a uniform and special type where they are necessary.

Mr. Rumjahn spoke at some length in favour of the application. It was decided to let the matter stand over till next meeting.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

An application for a modification of the requirements of Section 180 Sub-section (b) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, in respect of the house on Island Lot No. 123, facing Peel Street, was considered.

The applicant's architects, Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs, in their letter explained that the building was of such a nature that if they complied with one section they would probably contravene another. They therefore applied for exemption.

Mr. Ramjahn minuted: Grant.

Hon. Pollock minuted: Grant under the circumstances.

The application was granted.

OTHER MATTERS.

Applications regarding a bake-house and a laundry were discussed and treated on their merits.

The report of the Sanitary Surveyor for the second quarter of 1904 was laid on the table.

The Mortality Statistics for the week ended the 16th inst. was laid on the table. It showed the following figures, the death-rate being per 1,000 per annum:—

	Weeks ended 16th inst.	Same 9th inst.	inst. week '03.
British and Foreign civil population...	25.7	20.5	20.6
Chinese population	26.0	13.3	17.7
The whole Colony excluding Army & Navy	25.9	13.5	17.9

The Limewashing Return showed that fines during the fortnight ended 19th inst. amounted to \$249.

The Rat Return showed that out of 328 rats caught at Hongkong during the week ended the 25th inst. 21 were infected rats; and that out of 228 rats caught at Kowloon ten were infected.

IMPORTANT JUDGMENT RE CHITS.

In the Civil Summary Court at Shanghai, on 15th July, Mr. J. C. E. Douglas, Acting Assistant Judge, *in re* Central Stores, Ltd., v. W. M. Harvie, gave judgment as follows:—

This is a summons taken out by the plaintiff company against the defendant claiming the sum of Mexican dollars ninety-four and cents seventy, being an account due from the defendant to plaintiff for refreshments supplied to the defendant at his request. At the hearing of this summons Mr. A. H. Campbell on behalf of the plaintiffs stated that he held chits in support of this claim, and that some of them were given for wines, cigars, spirits, and aerated waters; that as regards these drinks they were supplied to the defendant over the bar of the Central Hotel, two or three drinks at a time. He, moreover, stated that the defendant was not staying in the hotel at the time when any part of this debt was contracted. The defendant admitted the whole claim, but the facts before me raised the question whether the plaintiffs were legally entitled to a judgment against the defendant on the whole or any part of the claim having regard to the statutes in force with regard to claims of this nature.

By section 12 of the Statute 24, Geo. II. c. 40, it is enacted as follows:—

"That from and after the said first day of July one thousand seven hundred and fifty-one no person or persons whatsoever shall be intitled unto or maintain any cause, action or suit for, or recover either in law or equity, any sum or sums of money, debt or demands whatsoever, for or on account of any spirituous liquors, unless such debt shall have really been and bona fide contracted at one time, to the amount of twenty shillings or upwards; nor shall any particular article or item in any account or demand for distilled spirituous liquors be allowed or maintained, where the liquors delivered at one time and mentioned in such article or item, shall not amount to the full value of twenty shillings at the least, and that without fraud or covin; and where no part of the liquors so sold or delivered shall have been returned or agreed to be returned directly or indirectly; and in case any retailer of spirituous liquors, with or without a licence, shall take or receive any pawn or pledge from any person or persons whatsoever, by way of security for the payment of any sum or sums of money owing by such person or persons for such spirituous liquors or strong waters, every such person or persons offending herein shall forfeit and lose the sum of forty shillings for each and

every pawn or pledge so taken in or received by him or them, to be levied and recovered by warrant under the hand and seal of one justice of the peace where the offence is committed; and the person or persons to whom any such pawn or pledge doth or shall belong, shall have the same remedy for recovering such pawn or the value thereof, as if it had never been pledged."

By the Statute 25 and 26, Vict. c. 38, the above enactment is repealed but so far only as relates to spirituous liquors sold to be consumed elsewhere than on the premises where sold, and delivered at the residence of the purchaser thereof in quantities not less at one time than a reputed quart."

By Section 182 of the County Courts Act 1888, 51 and 52, Vict. c. 43, being a re-enactment of Section 4 of the County Courts Act 1867, 30 and 31, Vict. c. 142, it is provided as follows:—

"No action shall be brought or be maintainable in any county or other court to recover any debt or sum of money alleged to be due in respect of the sale of any ale, porter, beer, cider, or perry which was consumed on the premises where sold or supplied, or in respect of any money or goods lent or supplied or of any security given for, in, or towards the obtaining of any such ale, porter, beer, cider, or perry."

These statutes contain certain limitations which the legislature in England has thought fit to impose on the sale on credit of intoxicating liquors and having regard to Article 5 of the Order of Council of 1865 and to the fact that there is nothing in these statutes in any way limiting the sections quoted or making them inapplicable to the circumstances which prevail here, I have no alternative but to apply them so far as they are applicable, if at all, to the circumstances of the present case.

The object of the legislature would appear to be the protection of a certain class of people from the temptation to immoderate drinking and, given a similar class of people here to-day and a similar temptation, there can be no question as to the applicability of these statutes or of the right of these people to this protection.

It must be noted that the law, in a sense, is not absolutely prohibitory but simply says if a certain sort of contract is made it will not be enforceable, in the same way as it does not allow a contract for an immoral or illegal consideration to be enforced. It is desirable to discourage certain practices, and this is done by the refusal of legal remedies in certain cases.

It is not for me to consider, beyond the circumstances of the present case, any limitations which have been put upon the Statute of 24, Geo. 2, c. 40, by the Courts, or which it might be argued should be put upon it by the actual wording, which is certainly not free from doubt. I may say, however, it is essentially a poor man's Act. It is known as 'The Tippling Act,' and has for its object the protection of a certain class of people from immoderate drinking which may be indulged in by the purchase on credit of intoxicating liquors at public bars. I am well aware that in this community a great many contracts are entered into and faithfully carried out which strictly speaking are not capable of being legally enforced, and I see no objection to that, but when a case comes into Court I can only deal with it according to the law as it stands.

In this case the defendant admitted the debt, but stated that he was not in a position to pay and he did not desire to offer any evidence on the facts. I am only able, then, to consider the question on the admissions of the plaintiffs and on the chits which are before me. The plaintiffs, however, were desirous that I should on this evidence consider how much of the claim was legally enforceable. I have examined the chits and I find that a good many of them were given for cigars and cigarettes, others, it appears probable, were given for tiffins or dinners, and the rest, with two exceptions, do not state the nature of the refreshments supplied. The two exceptions mentioned, being two chits for 80 cents each given for drinks concocted with brandy and gin, are clearly within the statutes, but, as regards the rest of the claim, there is nothing before me on which I can decide that it is not enforceable by reason of the statutes.

On these facts there must be judgment for the plaintiffs for \$94.70 less \$1.60, that is to say, for \$93.10, and they will be allowed \$3 for the costs of the summons.—N. C. Herald.

THE WAY OUT.

A decision has been rendered on the way to write a chit,

By a judge well steeped in wisdom and the law,

And in brief his finding reads that if you leave it blank you're "It."

When a summons is presented at the door. Contrary-wise, if you inscribe the nature of the drinks

Upon the piece of paper's virgin face, You can owe a thousand dollars (this is where the bar-keep winks),

And keep the summons servers on the chase. For, according to His Worship who the finding handed down,

And whom ten thousand toppers have to thank,

Neglect to specify may mean in this enlightened town,

'Twas devilled bones or sandwiches you drank.

So, impecunious, one and all, of low degree and high,

At whose signature the bar-boy blandly blinks,

You'll save a deal of trouble and expense if when you buy,

A cocktail or a peg, you name the drinks.

[H. M. Ayres in *Shanghai Times*.]

CANTON LAND CO., LD.

GENERAL MEETING.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Canton Land Company, Ltd., was held in the offices of the Company, No. 14 Des Voeux Road, on the 23rd inst. Hon. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. Babington, E. S. Kadoorie, Fung Wa Chun, and H. Rutherford (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will follow the usual course and take the report and accounts, now before you, as read. There is nothing of special interest to remark in regard to the year's business. The collection of rents has gone on satisfactorily, but you will notice that in these accounts we have written off rents due in previous years which, owing to the old trouble with the Kaifong, we have been unable to get in. I am sorry to say that I fear the rent from the jetty will be considerably reduced in future, as the access to it is being impeded greatly by the steamers lying across our property at the wharves on either side. We are, of course, doing our best to obtain compensation for this. We have not recommended a dividend this year as we are negotiating with the authorities at Canton for the reclamation of the unfilled portion of our land, and if this goes through we shall require all the money we have in hand to pay for the work.

No questions being asked with regard to the report,

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. KADOORIE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN moved the re-election of Mr. W. Hutton Potts as auditor.

The CHAIRMAN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. BABINGTON moved the election of Messrs. Chau Fung Shang, Poong Man Hing, Fung Wa Chun and R. Shewan to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. KADOORIE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

Letters from the China Station to the *Naval and Military Record* state that on Monday, May 9th, a court-martial was held on board the battleship *Centurion* at Hongkong, for the trial of Engr.-Commander William J. Bevan, of that ship, on a charge of "being incapacitated from duty through alcoholism." Capt. the Hon. F. G. Stopford, of the *Glory*, was president of the Court, and Capt. F. F. Fegan, M.V.O., of the *Centurion*, was the prosecuting officer. The accused pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to forfeit two years' seniority and to be dismissed his ship.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LD.

TO BE WOUND UP.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held on the 28th inst. to consider a proposal for winding up the concern. Mr. R. C. Wilcox presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. K. Hughes (director), T. F. Hough, G. Murray Bain, W. Shewan, A. H. Ribeiro, E. W. Terrey, H. C. Wilcox, E. J. Judah, K. Sayce, and A. R. Lowe (secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen.—This meeting has been called for the special purpose which you have just heard from the notice already read. I do not think it is necessary for me to make any further remarks, any explanation. You all know the purpose for which we have assembled. So with your permission, unless anyone has an amendment to propose—which he must be good enough to move first—I will proceed to read the resolution and propose it.

There was no amendment put forward.

The CHAIRMAN accordingly moved the resolution as follows:—"That the Company be wound up voluntarily and that William Kerfoot Hughes and Arthur Rylands Lowe be and they are hereby appointed liquidators for the purpose of such winding up."

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—Well, gentlemen, I beg to second that proposition, not with pleasure but with regret, and I think on passing the resolution we might fairly thank the directors and the staff for all they have done for us in the past. (Applause.)

Mr. HOUGH—I beg to support Mr. Murray Bain's remarks with regard to tendering our best thanks to the directors and staff of this concern.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to thank you very much for the remarks which have fallen from Mr. Bain and Mr. Hough. I am sure we have done all that we could to ascertain and carry out the views of the shareholders. That has been our one purpose in the matter.

On being put to the meeting the resolution was carried unanimously.

This was all the business.

A confirmatory meeting will be held of which notice will be given by advertisement.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

July 23rd.

RAIN AND THE PLAGUE.

The heavy rains continue with us, and half the country-side is flooded. It is to be feared that the crops will be damaged, but so far the rice harvest has been excellent, as mentioned before. Against this damage to crops must, however, be set the immunity from epidemic disease. Plague has now entirely ceased, not only in Canton, but in the neighbouring great city of Fatsan, where it was very bad until lately. The rains literally wash the cities free from disease.

PIRACY.

During the past three weeks three launches flying the British flag have been pirated in the neighbourhood of Samshui. No harm was done to the crews, and no great loss was incurred, but it is evident that notwithstanding periodic suppressals, the pirates return to their business.

THE REBELLION IN KWANGSI.

The most serious news received of late is that of the mutiny, or rising—for both elements seem to have existed—at Luchow. This affair is by now well known in Hongkong, but some additional details may be given. The soldiers, joining forces with the rebels, seized a very large sum of money, the lowest estimate is one hundred thousand taels, and carried off five hundred women into the bargain. The local magistrate, who seems to have been very unpopular, was warned in time, and escaped into the hills. The rebels were very anxious to capture him, and he only escaped ultimately by disguising himself as a servant.

The Viceroy regards the affair as being very important, for he has gone up to Wuchow. He left on the 17th instant with an escort of three cruisers, and will probably remain in Kwangsi

for some time. There can be no doubt that the Luchow mutiny is causing serious anxiety to the officials. The rebels have gained money and arms in large quantities, and will become more confident and aggressive than they have been hitherto. Unless trustworthy troops can be found to put down the rebellion, there is no telling where it may end.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A BANDITTI BATTUE.

Viceroy Shum, who is on the way to Kwangsi to take command of the soldiers personally to suppress the bandits, arrived at Wuchow on the 19th inst. His Excellency proceeded to the Yamen of the provincial Examiner, where he is now temporarily taking up his residence. He will start for Kweilin in a day or two, and has drawn from the Canton Treasury four hundred thousand taels to meet the war expenses, and further ordered to raise a sum of three hundred thousand taels for the same purpose.

THE SORROWS OF CHINA.

Some time last month a large band of robbers made an attack on the Yu-Long village in San-Tak district. They broke into the house of a rich man surnamed Fung, from which they carried away by force the owner together with his son and a visitor. The robbers asked twenty thousand dollars for the ransom of the captives, but as their request was not complied with, they killed the rich man and hung the corpse on a tree at the entrance of the village.

FLOODS.

Some two weeks ago a flood suddenly appeared in To-Shing district on the West River, caused by the recent heavy rain. The water was about ten feet high above the level. The number of houses destroyed was sufficiently large to render many people homeless. Luckily the flood made its appearance in daytime, so that all the people could make good their escape.

ABOLISHING SINECURES.

An Imperial edict was issued on the 10th instant abolishing the post of the superintendent of Customs of Canton, the duties of which are to be amalgamated with that of the Viceroy. The edict further commanded the viceroys and governors of different provinces to abolish all other useless posts.

H.E. MR. F. H. MAY.

O:

The following speaks for itself:

Hongkong, 23rd July, 1904.

SIR.—Finding that there will not be another meeting of the Legislative Council before the advent of the new Governor, and therefore no suitable opportunity of addressing your Excellency personally, we the Unofficial members now beg, at the close of your period of office as head of the Executive, to record in writing our sincere appreciation of the manner in which you have administered the Government.

Your long experience of the Colony and the tactful discharge of your duties when at the Colonial Secretariat had marked you out as well worthy of the high trust and as eminently fitted to conduct its affairs. For the past eight months Your Excellency has held the reins with a firm and impartial hand, and you have uniformly exhibited the warmest interest in the welfare of the Colony, and the well-being of all classes of its inhabitants.

The energy with which public works have been pushed forward and the steady progress made with legislation are proofs that there has been no intermission in the work of administration.

We have also noted with lively satisfaction the willing support you have extended to the efforts made to secure the early construction of the railway designed to connect this Colony with Canton, a matter of such vital concern to the people of Hongkong.

Other important measures have received your prompt and careful consideration, and your record has been one of continuous progress attended with the minimum of friction.

The hospitalities of Government House have been most agreeably dispensed by your Excellency and Mrs. May, whose charming affability and unfailing tact as a hostess has endeared her to the community.

Trusting that Your Excellency will long be spared to further serve your sovereign and country as a Colonial administrator.—We have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble servants.

(Sd.) C. P. CHATER

HO KAI

WEI YUK

ROBT. SHEWAN

G. STEWART

W. J. GRESSON

His Excellency F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Officer Administering the Government.

The following answer was made:

Government House, Hongkong, 25th July.

GENTLEMEN.—I have received with much gratification your letter of the 23rd instant in which you are good enough to record your appreciation of the manner in which I have administered the Government of this Colony during the past eight months. Permit me to say that if I achieved any success it is in a large measure due to the loyal and willing co-operation which I have at all times received from you. I am sensible that I owe this Colony very much. If I have in some measure diminished the debt I am not unmindful that there remains a large balance against me in the account which it will ever be my earnest endeavour to discharge. I thank you for the kindly references you made to Mrs. May, and I can assure you that she appreciates them no less than I do.—I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient servant.

F. H. MAY,

Officer Administering the Government.

To the Honourable Sir C. P. Chater, Kt. C.M.G., Dr. Ho Kai, Wei Yuk, Robert Shewan, Gershom Stewart, W. J. Gresson.

THE ITALIAN CONVENT.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

On the 23rd inst. Mrs. May, who was accompanied by Hon. R. A. B. Ponsonby, Private Secretary to His Excellency F. H. May, C.M.G., performed the ceremony of distributing the prizes to the scholars at the Italian Convent. A large number of the public attended the function at the invitation of the reverend Mother Superior, among those invited being Chevalier and Mrs. Volpicelli, Mr. and Mrs. Huke, Mr. and Mrs. Post, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Machado, Mr. and Mrs. N. G. Nolan, Mr. S. D. Setia, Senhor Conselheiro A. G. Romano, Father de Maria, Father Spada, Father Gabardi, Father Brun and Father Bullons. The room in which the ceremony took place was nicely decorated for the occasion with a floral "Welcome" appearing above the platform. When the company had assembled Miss M. Brewster recited an address to the gathering, on behalf of the Mother Superior, with a gracefulness that struck everyone. Indeed all the subsequent items in the entertainment were carried through with an ability and excellence which redounded to the credit of the reverend Mother Superior and the staff of this admirable institution. A band of little girls all dressed in white next gave a display of calisthenic-ring (drill) to the accompaniment of piano music by Miss S. Rosario, which was followed by a solo, Rossini's "Prière de Moïse" by Miss D. Souza. One of the most entertaining items on the programme was the rendering of Cagliero's song "The Cobblers" by five pretty young ladies in costume, the accompaniment being played by Miss E. Angell. Then followed a recitation, "The Elephant," by Miss T. Barretto, a song, "La Figlia della Providenza," by Miss E. Angell, and a recitation, entitled "Time," by Miss V. Muñoz.

In an interval in the programme Rev. Father de Maria said—Madam, ladies and gentlemen,—allow me, before proceeding to call out the names of the successful pupils for their prizes to read you the annual report of the Inspector of Schools regarding the results of the Italian Convent School. Notwithstanding that, as I would admit, there is still room for improvement, yet I think we have good reason to be satisfied with the result of our work, hearing as we do from this report that the discipline and organisation are excellent and the school thoroughly efficient. Mr. Irving in his report says:—"There has been a most praiseworthy attempt

by the staff of this school to remodel the teaching in accordance with modern ideas. This attempt has been most successful in the lower standards. It will be seen below that the higher standards are not equally satisfactory, but they can only be expected to improve gradually until they are filled by scholars who have had a better grounding according to the new method adopted. In the Infant School, kindergarten work has been successfully introduced. Regarding Standards I-III, history is being taught very well in the form of story-telling. But I think that rather too much work is being put on Standard I, where it had better be dropped.—It will be dropped. (Laughter). Arithmetic is taught up to decimals in Standard III. Mental arithmetic, a new subject, was well done. Geography, beginning with local geography, was well known. Recitation was fair. More distinctness of utterance is wanted. The subject should always be well within the comprehension of the scholar. Object lessons are very well taught in Standards IV-VII. Composition Grammar was very good in IV, but showed an unaccountable falling off in Standards V, Six and VII were good and would have been very good but for the work of two or three in each. Discipline and organisation were excellent throughout the school. I report the school to be thoroughly efficient." And now, madam, I have to ask you, in the name of the Reverend Mother, to honour us by distributing the prizes.

Mrs. May then presented the prizes to the scholars as follows:—

STANDARD I.—1, Helen Brewster—1st for order, writing, geography, composition and needlework; 2nd for good conduct, recitation and drill; 3rd for arithmetic, history and object lessons. 2, Willy Hart—1st for Christian doctrine and history; 2nd for composition, arithmetic and object lessons; 3rd for reading, geography, recitation and drill. 3, James Kew—1st for reading, recitation and drill; 3rd for application, writing and object lessons; 4th for history, geography and arithmetic. 4, Frank Murray—1st for arithmetic; 2nd for Christian doctrine and writing; 3rd for history and geography; 4th for drill. 5, Frederick Brewster—1st for object lessons; 2nd for history and geography; 3rd for composition. 6, Manuela Oate—1st for good conduct and application. 7, Alberto Remedios—1st for application and good conduct. 8, Louisa Choy—1st for good conduct, needlework and application. 9, Julia Ycaza—1st for good conduct and application.

STANDARD II.—1, Gloria Ycaza—1st for composition and history; 1st for object lessons and writing; 2nd for geography and grammar; 3rd for Christian doctrine and dictation. 2, Susan Mugford—1st for grammar and dictation; 2nd for history; 3rd for reading. 3, Pepita Ros—1st for geography; 2nd for reading and dictation; 3rd for history and object lessons. 4, Ray Friemann—1st for reading; 2nd for composition and dictation; 3rd for grammar. 5, Emilia Muñoz—1st for good conduct; 2nd for needlework; 3rd for writing. 6, Elvira Felices—1st for application; 2nd for geography. 7, Judith Botelho—1st for arithmetic; 2nd for Christian doctrine and home work. 8, Ricarda Xavier—1st for Christian doctrine; 2nd for good conduct.

STANDARD III.—1, João Gomes da Silva—1st for religious instruction, object lessons, grammar, history; 2nd for dictation and arithmetic, and for geography and reading. 2, Enriqueta Felices—1st for good conduct and composition; 2nd for writing, grammar, and history. 3, Giovanna Remedios—1st for arithmetic, writing and grammar, and geography; 2nd for history; 3rd for object lessons and reading. 4, Victoria Muñoz—1st for reading and dictation; 2nd for composition and object lessons; 3rd for history. 5, Adele Klingemann—1st for history; 2nd for reading; 3rd for geography. 6, Pelagia Urquico—1st for needlework; 3rd for arithmetic and application. 7, Renata Galluzzi—3rd for grammar and geography. 8, Alice Brandt—3rd for dictation and composition. 9, Etelvina Remedios—3rd for writing, history, and regular attendance.

STANDARD IV.—1, Dolly Remedios—1st for composition, history, reading, and religious instruction. 2, Isabel Hicks—1st for religious instruction, dictation, geography, and needlework. 3, Aurora Lee—1st for arithmetic, reading, and religious instruction; 2nd for geography; 3rd for grammar. 4, Trinidad Gay—1st for good conduct and grammar; 2nd

for writing and order; 3rd for history. 5, Louisa Hicks—1st for object lessons and religious instruction; 2nd for composition, grammar, dictation, geography and history. 6, Angelina Barradas—1st for geography; 2nd for arithmetic; 3rd for dictation and regular attendance. 7, Jessie Pestonjee—1st for application; 2nd for history; 3rd for composition, geography and object lessons. 8, Hortencia Baptista—1st for regular attendance and needlework; 2nd for arithmetic. 9, Mariquinhas Vieira—1st for application; 2nd for reading; 3rd for arithmetic. 10, Alice Nuttall—1st for writing and order; 2nd for regular attendance; 3rd for dictation. 11, Mary Elizabeth White—2nd for object lessons and geography; 3rd for religious instruction, dictation, reading and history.

STANDARD V.—1, Maria Santos—1st for reading, recitation, composition, and history; 3rd for geography. 2, Maria Gomes da Silva—1st for application, regular attendance, geography and elementary science; 2nd for history; 3rd for Christian doctrine, grammar and arithmetic. 3, Manuela Gay—1st for good conduct and history; 2nd for Christian doctrine, grammar and composition; 3rd for elementary science. 4, Paulina Botelho—1st for Christian doctrine; 2nd for geography, elementary science and arithmetic; 3rd for reading and history. 5, Mafalda Barradas—1st for arithmetic; 2nd for reading and composition; 3rd for geography. 6, Yanuaria Lison—1st for grammar; 3rd for Christian doctrine, geography and composition. 7, Feliza Munoz—1st for writing, good order and needlework.

STANDARD VI.—Elisa Camara—1st for good conduct, physics, and needlework; 2nd for arithmetic; 3rd for composition; 4th for history and grammar. 2, Pepita Muñoz—1st for arithmetic and grammar; 3rd for geography and physics. 3, Edith Best—1st for history and geography; 4th for composition, arithmetic and physics. 4, Cecilia Lukban—1st for religious instruction; 2nd for grammar; 3rd for arithmetic. 5, Gertrude Hopwar—1st for composition and history. 6, Annie Burke—2nd for composition and history; 4th for geography. 7, Marie Nolasco da Silva—2nd for domestic economy and physics; 3rd for grammar.

STANDARD VII.—1, Teresa Barretto—1st for arithmetic, history, geography, object lessons and elementary science; 2nd for religious instruction, composition, grammar. 2, Encarnacion Querubin—1st for religious instruction, composition, grammar, elementary science, and object lessons; 2nd for history and geography; 3rd for arithmetic. 3, Kate Euanson—1st for good order and writing; 2nd for history and elementary science; 3rd for religious instruction, composition, grammar and geography; 2nd for arithmetic and object lessons. 4, Doris Chinyat—2nd for object lessons; 3rd for composition, history and elementary science; 4th for religious instruction and geography; 5th for arithmetic. 5, Carmen Conceicao—3rd for arithmetic and object lessons; 4th for composition and history. 5th for grammar and geography. 6, Ernestina Marques—2nd for arithmetic; 4th for religious instruction and elementary science; 5th for composition, grammar, history and geography.

Special class for general improvement—Clare Burke and Maggie Brewster.

After the ceremony was over Hon. R. A. B. Ponsonby on behalf of Mrs. May stated that it always gave her great pleasure to come to that institution, one of the very best in Hongkong. She had heard with great interest the excellent report of Mr. Irving upon the school, and trusted that it might still go on improving. The school was due to be re-opened on 2nd September. Mrs. May had asked that the opening be postponed till the 5th of September. (Applause.) The other items on the programme were a duet, "El Poeta y Aldeano," by Miss D. Souza and Miss E. Querubin, and a coro, "Banda Vocals," which were both capitally rendered "God Save the King" brought the entertainment to a close.

The s.s. *Chukong*, best known under her old name of the *Bakan Maru*, has returned from her charter trip among the Philippine Islands, and is now undergoing an overhaul at Cosmopolitan Dock before taking up her old run on the river. Captain Casey is in command, vice Captain Mason.

DIOCESAN BOYS' SCHOOL.

CONCERT AND PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

On the evening of the 27th inst. at this school a concert was given, the occasion being the breaking-up of the scholars for the summer vacation. A large number of visitors were present, including the Rev. J. H. France, Mr. Ingalls, Inspector Baker, Mr. Cunningham, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Pearce, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Hagen, Miss Benning, Mrs. Allnutt, Miss Grimes, and Mrs. Sylebee, and the girls from the Diocesan Girls' School.

Mr. France occupied the chair, and opened proceedings by a short address in which he dwelt upon the work done by the pupils of the school during the session which had now drawn to a close, and expressed the pleasure it gave him to see such a large muster of visitors and friends in the hall.

The first item was a song, "Soldier Boys," sung by the scholars, after which Mrs. Pieroy and Master Palmer gave a pianoforte duet. Mr. Richard Pieroy was seen to advantage in "The Yeoman's Wedding Song," which was followed by "The Coming of the King," by Mrs. Brown, and met with the customary marks of approval from the audience. Masters J. C. Palmer and V. Sheffield were next heard in "Comrades," the chorus of which was taken up in hearty fashion by the boys. Mr. Ingalls gave a recitation entitled "Revenge" in admirable style, and, although vociferous "encores" were shouted from every part of the hall, he was not to be persuaded into occupying the platform again, and, making a short, humorous apology for not conforming to the wishes of the audience, resumed his seat, amidst applause. Mr. Lookley gave a clever banjo solo, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Pieroy, and was encored. Master W. Hagen sang "Soldiers of the King" in good style, after which the vocal portion of the evening's entertainment was brought to a conclusion by Mr. Cunningham with "Jack's the Boy."

Mrs. Sylebee undertook the distribution of the prizes to the successful members of the cricket and "fives" clubs. We may remark *en passant* that the fives courts in this school are the only ones in the Colony, and some of the boys have attained to a high degree of proficiency in the game. A silver shield medal was presented to each member of the cricket team; and to the champions of the fives court—H. Brandt and U. Wai Tak—were awarded a pair of cricketing gloves and a volume of Shakespeare's Works to the first named, and a camera to the second. Prizes were also awarded to W. Jenkins and W. Drude, the runners-up. Mr. France said that he felt it incumbent upon him to give some explanation of the apparent disparity in the two prizes awarded to the first prize winners. Wai Tak was about to leave the school, where he had always shown himself a diligent pupil, and it would serve to keep his old school in remembrance. Another reason was that he had proved himself an able and efficient secretary of the cricket club.

Mrs. Sylebee, in response to a vote of thanks from the chair, said it had been a great pleasure to her to distribute the prizes, and she hoped that they would give every satisfaction to the recipients.

"God Save the King" brought a pleasant evening to a conclusion.

LOCAL SPORT.

SATURDAY'S V.E.C. CARNIVAL.

Fine weather favoured the V.E.C. Aquatic Carnival on the 23rd inst. A large number of visitors, including many ladies in their bright summer dresses, witnessed the various contests. Results, etc., were as follows:—

Handicappers.—Messrs. Meek & J. Hance.
Starters.—Messrs. Caldwell & E. Mitchell.
Judges.—Messrs. A. Chapman & W. Bailey.
Timekeeper.—Mr. E. M. Haseland.
Two LENGTHS HANDICAP.—1, H. A. Lamert; 2, J. W. Bains.

Heat 1. Heat 2.
J. E. Ellis .. "Go" H. C. Austen .. "Go"
G. Macdonald Oves .. 8a. E. Humphreys Oves .. 8a.
J. B. Hance .. 8a. J. E. Pereira .. 8a.
A. V. Rebeiro .. 12a. J. Miller .. 10a.
C. Humphreys .. 12a. J. Wittchell .. 14a.
R. C. Wittchell .. 15a. N. H. Alves .. 14a.

Heat 3.

W. S. Bailey ... "Go"
J. W. Bains ... Oves 6 sec.
H. A. Lammert ... 7 "
A. V. Barros ... 10 "
H. C. Sayer ... 12 "

In this event the first and seconds in each of the three heats swam in the final.

The first heat was carried by J. H. R. Hance, who arrived home about half-a-second ahead of R. B. Macdonald and R. C. Witchell, the latter couple making a tie for second place. Time, 48 secs.

E. Humphreys won the second heat, with N. H. Alves a close up. Time, 48 secs.

In the third heat H. A. Lammert arrived first, J. W. Bains second. Time, 47 secs.

The final was won by the two placed men of the third heat. H. A. Lammert was first, J. W. Bains second. Time, 47 secs. as before. Bains, by the way, is a comparatively new member of the Club, these being his first laurels in connection with Hongkong swimming. He possesses swimming honours, however, from Sydney.

ARMY, NAVY, POLICE.

TWO LENGTHS. (Army, Navy and Police.)
1, Pte Beat; 2, Pte Fisher.

A very fair number faced the starter. Only two men used the trudgen stroke, and these were the winners. Private Fisher, second.

PLUNGING. 1, F. K. Tata; 2, N. H. Alves. The entries were:—R. C. Witchell, J. Witchell, J. E. Ellis, F. M. Roza Pereira, N. H. Alves, H. A. Lammert, A. V. Barros, W. T. Andrews, H. C. Austen, F. K. Tata, and T. Swaby.

F. K. Tata won this event. Some of the competitors fell into the error of diving too deep, while others, again, showed weak points in their spring off. The tide at the time was going out, so when competitors "kept up" their dive to the "bitter" end they were by the receding water carried in the wrong direction. One man indeed turned right around, an incident which caused great merriment. Wags at the stand shouted "keep it up, old boy, keep it up." When the plunger raised his head out of water and realised the situation there was great laughter. Tata's plunge was 43ft. 9in. N. H. Alves won the second prize with a plunge of 43ft. 2in. Tata leaves for India to-day by the s.s. *Persia*. He is going to Bombay to get married.

RUNNING HEADER FROM SPRINGBOARD.—1, F. Jorge; 2, C. Humphreys. Other competitors: J. Millar, J. Witchell, and J. H. A. Hance.

In this high diving competition the competitors displayed great skill, causing very little commotion in the water. Frank Jorge's exhibition was judged "No. 1." and C. Humphreys was awarded second prize.

TEAM RACE.

R. Witchell (Capt.)	J. Witchell (Capt.)	N. Alves (Capt.)
H. Sayer.	C. Humphreys.	A. Rebeiro.
J. B. Pereira	A. Barros.	F. R. Pereira.
J. Alves.	J. Millar.	H. Lammert.
J. Britto.	L. Lammert.	O. Chunnutt.
E. Humphreys.	H. Austen.	W. Andrews.
W. Bailey.	H. Seth.	G. Macdonald.
J. Ellis.	J. Cronin.	C. Silas.

The chief feature in this contest was the absolute uncertainty as to which team would win. One good swimmer would gain, half a length, an advantage only to be lost by the man following. R. C. Witchell's team was first; J. Witchell's team second; and N. H. Alves' team third.

WATER POLO.

White v. Blue.—Blue won, 2-1.

White.	Blue.
R. C. Witchell (Capt.)	J. Witchell (Capt.)
C. Humphreys	A. V. Barros
J. Millar	A. J. V. Rebeiro
N. H. Alves	J. H. A. Hance
J. M. Roza Pereira	H. A. Lammert
H. C. Sayer	E. Humphreys
F. M. Roza Pereira	H. J. W. Gidley

Perhaps this was the most popular event of all, for both players and spectators. After some very even play H. A. Lammert for the Blues shot the ball into the net amid cheering. C. Humphreys (White) equalised, and J. Witchell closed the scoring with a second goal for Blue. The game resulted:—

Blue, 2; White, 1.

Mr. A. Chapman, chairman of the Club, afterwards distributed the prizes.

HONGKONG.

We hear that H.M.S. *Leviathan* has struck a rock near Weihaiwei, and is coming to Hongkong for repairs.

Major R. J. Ross, of the 4th Middlesex Regiment, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General at Hongkong.

We regret to hear that the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli is ill. We understand that His Lordship is suffering from anæmia and is now laid up with an attack of dysentery.

A lady stepping into a ricksha was hailed recently by a coolie further down the waiting line. "Hai, Missie, catchee me. He man b'long no good. He b'long stinker." And the lady says it proved only too true.

A "Chefoo story" says that 500 tons of dynamite shipped from London to Hongkong on May 15th is destined for the Russians in Manchuria. It is reported that a portion of the cargo is lying at Hongkong awaiting shipment north.

The plague returns for last week show that there were 25 cases, and all fatal. This brings the number for the year so far to 453, of which 439 have been fatal. In the 48 hours since that return, there were five Chinese dead of the plague. During last week there was a European case of enteric fever, which happily has not proved fatal.

While Messrs. Price & Co.'s boat was out in the Harbour on the 26th inst. one of the boatmen fell overboard. Mr. Frank White, one of the best known swimmers in the Colony, was on the boat and was on the point of jumping in to the rescue, but fortunately he was able to get the man on board again by the means of a boat-hook.

The death took place on the 25th inst. at the Peak Hospital of Mr. Max Hernfeld, of the firm of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. Mr. Hernfeld had been in the East a little more than two years, residing the greater part of the time at Canton, where the unexpected news of his death will be received by a large number of friends with genuine sorrow, as it has been by his friends in Hongkong.

A Queen's Road business man who went out on a bathing picnic the other evening found on his return that some eighty watches of different kinds and values had been stolen from his premises in his absence. The police were informed, and as the result of enquiries several arrests were made, including the office coolie. Some of the stolen watches were found on the persons arrested, who are countrymen of the office coolie, and others were recovered in pawnshops. The coolie accompanied his employer on the launch, but the surmise is that he gave information to the thieves as to his master's absence and how to effect an entrance to the premises.

On the 25th inst. there was celebrated at Union Church the wedding of Miss Mary Logan, daughter of Mr. J. D. Logan of the Kowloon Docks, to Mr. Francis H. Hamblin, chief officer of the China Merchants s.s. *Meifoo*. Mr. Logan gave the bride away and the marriage ceremony was conducted by Rev. C. H. Hickling. The bride's two sisters acted as bridesmaids, Mr. Thomas Banks as best man. There was a very large attendance of ladies and gentlemen at the ceremony, after which a reception was held at the Hongkong Hotel and the customary complimentary toasts were drunk. The young couple will go to Shanghai for their honeymoon, and the best wishes of their many friends in Hongkonggo with them.

There was a large attendance of the German and Austrian members of the community and others at the Cemetery on the 26th inst. to pay a final tribute of respect to the late Mr. Max Hernfeld, who died, unexpectedly, at the Peak Hospital on Monday four or five hours after an operation had been successfully performed to remove an abscess on the liver. Numerous floral tributes of regret, which were borne with the coffin to the grave, testified no less eloquently than the large attendance to the sincere sorrow evoked by the premature death of one who, though not long resident in the Colony, had by the amiability of his disposition favourably disposed towards him all with whom he had come in contact. The funeral service was impressively conducted by Pastor R. Kriele, of the German Church.

Sanitary regulations, as against ships going from Hongkong, are in force now at Manila, Indo-China, Netherlands India, Burma, Straits Settlements, Shanghai, Siam, Kophai, Madras, Bengal, French Indo-China, British North Borneo and Labuan.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Now that Kongmoon has been opened as a free port, visitors to that place cannot but be struck with the inadequacy and incongruousness of the British Consulate there. H.B.M.'s representative occupies a houseboat on the river. It is perhaps as salubrious a dwelling as one could get ashore at Kongmoon, but it certainly lacks in spaciousness and accommodation.

The Merchant Service Guild's flag was not condemned because of its likeness to the naval "Jack." It appears that it has to be of certain dimensions—7 by 5 feet, diamond 6 by 4—and that in the Singapore case these dimensions were exceeded. The flag, with its "M.S.G." in diamond as before, is declared legal by the Board of Trade.

So far, the Australian raid on the English magazine publishers (in the ostensible behoof of "abundant good literary talent" among Colonials) has not produced the golden egg that was expected. The following tells its own story: "English Mail Examined. Poor Result.—Adelaide, Wednesday.—Acting under instructions from the Controller-General of Customs, the examination of magazines by this week's English mail was carried out at Port Adelaide this morning. Five officers went through forty-eight cases, and the net result of the overhaul was the discovery of 37lb. weight of insets (loose sheets), which, at 3d. per lb. duty, will realise 9s. 3d." If this were a fishing column, or one given to frivolity, we might have something screamingly funny to say about Sir William Lyne and his net, and his miraculous haul, and so forth. As it is, we hold our hand, leaving the bare facts to sink into the soul of the Minister of Customs and such others as it may concern.—*The Outlook*.

At the annual meeting of the Association in Aid of the Church of England Mission in North China and Shantung, Prebendary Storrs, who presided, referred to his recent visit to North China, and pointed out that the division of the diocese meant no diminution of Bishop Scott's work. Though he had given up Shantung, he had taken over the Manchurian province of Shingking from the Bishop of Corea's jurisdiction. It was satisfactory to hear of an increase in the number of native workers, to whose ministrations they had to look for the winning of China and Japan. The Rev. J. H. Brown, of Tientsin, said that at present the Bishop had only three clergymen working with him, and the need of reinforcements was most urgent. In Peking two clergymen were wanted immediately, one for the country stations and the other to prepare for re-opening the training school for catechists and native clergy. The Rev. A. E. Burne, of Shantung, the Rev. Roland Allen, lately of North China, and the Rev. Mackwood Stevens, secretary, also took part in the proceedings.

A work which will have an interesting bearing upon the crisis in the Far East is being issued by Messrs. Macmillan under the title "Manchu and Muscovite." The author, Mr. B. L. Putnam Weale, has spent the greater part of his life among the Chinese, and undertook a journey through Manchuria for the purpose of collecting material for the present book. The result of his travels has been to upset the generally accepted view of the character of the Russian occupation. This, he maintains, is purely military, and lacks all the elements of permanence. In fact, the Russification of Manchuria is a myth. The province, which is a grain-producing country of the first rank, remains, in all its cultivated portions, essentially Chinese, and in the commercial and industrial centres the Celestial is ousting the Slav. Mr. Putnam Weale supports his arguments by an exhaustive examination of the railway system, the operations of the Russo-Chinese Bank, and the whole conduct of affairs. The general impression received is that the firmly established organism of Chinese agricultural and trading life will outlast the superficial veneer of European civilisation.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Canton, 16th July, 1904. Third crop.—Only 7,000 bales will be available for export. The Rendement of Cocoons is exceedingly poor; and many Filatures are inclined to reduce their production to some extent. The first silk samples of 3rd crop appear to be of very inferior quality, very hairy and of bad colour. Long-reels.—The improved enquiry for Europe, mentioned in our last circular, was maintained during the earlier part of the fortnight. But during the latter part the market was quieter; nevertheless dealers maintain a very firm front. The coarse sizes and Native 11/13-13/15-14/18 are still the favorite sorts; but the prices asked for the latter are out of proportion with those paid for Filatures. Business has been done on the basis of \$750 for Chun Sun Hang 16/18, \$695 for Miu Lun On 18/22; \$692½ for Luen Fat Cheong 20/24, \$710 for Soay Wo Cheong 11/13-13/15-14/18. Short-reels.—The feature of our market has been the active enquiry from Europe for S.R. 14/18, chiefly in No. 2 stock of which is rather small. At the same time, the New York market shown signs of revival, and fair transactions have been concluded. Waste Silk.—Holders are willing to meet the buyers with little easier prices; but the latter do not seem anxious now to operate. Business is practically at a standstill.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 29th July.—The downward tendency continues, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.60 to \$8.65	picul.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.05 to 6.10	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.35 to 8.40	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.45 to 7.50	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.75 to 12.80	"
Shekloong ".....	10.08 to 10.85	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 29th July.—No demands having come forward, the prices are declining.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to \$2.45
" Round, good quality.....	3.90 to 3.95
" Long.....	4.05 to 4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.80 to 2.85
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.55 to 3.80
" White,.....	4.15 to 4.20
" Fine Cargo.....	4.30 to 4.85

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 28th July.

We beg to continue our advices of the 14th July, since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian				
Stocks as per circular of 14th July, 1904.	904	2,358	1,008	2,409
July 15th Imports per Simla	201	145	50	123
July 28th " " G. Apcar		838	365	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,106	3,341	1,423	2,507
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	71	10	94	—
Estimated Stocks this day	846	2,805	1,180	2,444

Bengal.—Owing to the accumulation of stocks here and in Shanghai and a falling off in the consumption, prices have been declining and we close irregular at about \$1,200 for Patna, and \$1,180 Benares.

Malwa.—The market has been very active during the past fortnight but owing to prices having advanced considerably the feeling at the close is rather quiet. Quotations are:—

New.....	\$1,040/1,060
2 years old.....	\$1,080/1,100
3 " ".....	\$1,120/1,140
4-5 " ".....	\$1,240/1,260
Oldest.....	\$1,280/1,295

Persian.—Prices are steady at \$840/880 but business has been small.

COAL.

The arrivals of coal up to date at Hongkong have been 19,500 tons of Japanese coal, and 1,000 tons of Cardiff coal all sold; and 33,300 tons of Japanese coal are expected to arrive shortly.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 29th July.—Small sales at previous rates.

Stock about 14,000 bales.	
Bombay.....	27.00 to 29.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca.....	27.00 to 31.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese.....	30.00 to 32.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	30.00 to 32.00 "

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, July 29th, says:—Shortly after the departure of last mail a quiet but steady general enquiry set in and close upon 3,000 bales, both spot and to arrive, changed hands, values showing an appreciation of \$1 to \$2, per bale on previous quotations. The demand, however, was not of long duration as towards the middle of the fortnight the market again became quiet in sympathy with the decline in raw cotton and at the close business has come to a complete standstill and the recent small recovery in prices has almost disappeared. Stocks are running abnormally low and under ordinary circumstances the market would have shown a sharp and rapid advance, but heavy shipments of old contract goods are shortly expected, and in the meanwhile the quantity of yarn in second hands, is more than sufficient to meet all possible requirements.

Local Manufacture:—There is no change in Local Mill quotations which are still maintained at \$112 for No. 10s and \$114 for No. 12s, at which figures sales of about 1,100 bales have transpired.

Japanese Yarns.—Have continued in good request and prices here and there show a small advance of 50 cents to a Dollar per bale. Sales reported are 575 bales No. 16s at \$126 to \$127, 940 bales No. 20s at \$128 to \$132 and 100 bales No. 32s at \$189 market closing firm.

Raw Cotton:—In sympathy with the decline on the other side holders of Indian descriptions have come down in their ideas of value, and a concession of \$1 per Picul has induced a fair business, about 600 bales superfine Bengal changing hands at \$28 to \$30, leaving an unsold stock of 1,000 bales on the market. There is nothing doing in China Cotton. Quotations are \$27 to \$31 Indian, and \$30 to \$33 Chinese.

Exchange on India, after slight fluctuations, has continued steady and closes to-day at Rs. 138½ for T/T and Rs. 138½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 90½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 15th instant, viz:—

Indian:—With a further rise of one to two Taels per bale the market has been active with sales aggregating 9,500 bales, comprising 25 bales No. 6s, 5,300 bales No. 10s, 600 bales No. 12s, 760 bales No. 16s and 2,815 bales No. 20s and closes strong. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese:—The market has been more active but only a trifle firmer, sales amounting to 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 88½ to 96 for No. 16s and Tls. 93 to 98 for No. 20s.

Local:—At a decline of half to one Tael per bale there has been some movement in this market, about 3,500 bales No. 14s and No. 16s changing hands at Tls. 89½ and Tls. 91 respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Shanghai, 21st July.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, state:—The past week has undoubtedly been the busiest importers have had for some time, but it has been chiefly in booking forward contracts for the early Spring arrival. This business is so far confined almost entirely to Manchester makes and comprises a wide range of goods. Although rather reluctant at first the local dealers have decided to take some of their forward requirements at present prices, which appear reasonably cheap compared with those lately ruling, and even with those wanted for earlier shipment. It is estimated that fully fifty per cent. of the early orders for the Spring trade have already gone through, the booking commencing much sooner than usual, and ever now some Manufacturers are drawing in their horns. On the other hand there are firms who have received advices to the effect that better terms will be obtainable by waiting. However that may be the country is now so completely bare of stock that any appreciable decline in prices is bound to stimulate the demand to such an extent that it is extremely dubious whether manufacturers will find the necessity for making further concessions. Although it is said the forward business done has been on the basis of December Cotton at 5½d. a good deal higher than that will have to be paid before that month's purchases can arrive and be available for manufacture, so that the business will not show the big margin of profit it appears to do at first sight. Some idea of prices can be obtained from the present and forward quotations of standard makes—Hornby's 8.4-lb. Shirtings quoted now at 6s. 9d. have been bought for December-January shipment at 6s. 7½d., and Calvert's 10-lb. Shirtings at 8s. 6d. against 8s. 9d. the current quotation. Although business in American makes has not been indulged in so far ahead a fair amount has gone through,

while the New York market has been practically swept of all available supplies of ready goods. Manchester has not unnaturally shown some firmness, but at the same time a good deal of irregularity which is extremely puzzling. Spot Cotton, which under the circumstances cannot exert much influence over the market, if any, continues to undergo considerable fluctuation—after advancing to 6.75d at the end of last week it dropped to 6.50d. on the 19th, but a private telegram to-day quotes it 6.80d. and weak. That is of course for Mid. American; for Egyptain the price is stronger, 7½d. on the 19th inst. and 7½d. to-day. The export is increasing, the shipments from Manchester during the last fortnight being 10,000,000 yards. The market in New York is easier, Pepperell Drills being quoted 11s. 2d., Suez shipment, and some business has been done on that basis. Stocks.—The half-yearly returns have been published by the Chamber of Commerce. As was to be expected they show a very considerable decrease and, on the whole, coincide very nearly with the estimates based on the 31st December returns. Grey Shirtings look rather heavier than was expected, but the difference will probably be fully accounted for when the additional cargoes have been declared by the Customs. T. Cloths, 36 inch, are always below the estimates, the local consumption being undoubtedly greater than it is thought to be. English Jeans are unexpectedly short considering the excess of the imports over deliveries, unless the local consumption has increased very considerably. American goods generally conform fairly closely to the figures based on the December returns, as do printed and dyed goods. Muslins are somewhat short, but Lenos in excess. With the exception of Lastings, which are in rather larger supply than anticipated, woollen goods agree pretty accurately with our figures. As regards Cotton Yarn both Indian and Japanese are considerably over the estimates; could the s.s. Chusan's cargo have been included by mistake? That would account for a good part of the difference in the former. As regards local spinnings the figures are obviously wrong, the actual stock, sold and unsold, being something between 25,000 and 30,000 bales, the Native owned mills do not approve of returning their stocks. Glancing at the analysis of the returns it will be seen that while the higher weights of Grey Shirtings are in much reduced supply the heavier makes are in excess of the stocks at the beginning of the year, and White Shirtings and Irishes have increased by nearly 25 per cent.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 29th July.

Beans.....	\$4
Borax.....	\$15 @ 18
Camphor (China).....	\$95
" (Formosa).....	\$115
Cassia (First quality).....	\$22
" (Second ").....	\$15
Oil.....	\$155
Cloves.....	\$20 @ 50
Fennel Seed Oil.....	\$315
Galangle.....	\$3 @ 6
Glue.....	\$26
Grapes.....	\$15 @ 17
Ivory.....	\$300 @ 700
Kismiss.....	\$9 @ 12
Olibanum.....	\$4 @ 20
Rosa Oil.....	\$60 @ 170
Saltpetre.....	\$11 @ 12
Sandal wood.....	\$28 @ 31
" Oil.....	\$350
Senna Leaves.....	\$4
Sugar Candy.....	\$10 @ 11
Vermilion.....	\$86
Wax.....	\$38½

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Kintuck, sailed on 21st July, 1904.
For London:—3,602 boxes tea, 3,541 packages fire crackers, 875 cases cassia, 829 bales canes, 537 bales hemp, 250 cases ginger, 224 cases shells, 180 rolls matting, 165 cases bristles, 130 cases soy, 129 bales hides, 100 cases ginger, 100 bales galangal, 68 cases Chinaware, 50 bales waste silk, 54 bales feathers, 36 packages sundries, 30 cases essential oil. For Amsterdam:—100 cases cassia, 250 bales hemp. For Rotterdam:—250 bales hemp. For Antwerp:—100 bales feathers, 32 bales tobacco. For Fiume:—200 cases cassia, 150 bales cassia. For Manchester:—1 case cigars. For London or Continent:—1,830 cases merchandize. For London or Goolie:—140 bales waste silk. For London or Manchester:—60 bales waste silk. For London or Glasgow:—106 cases ginger, 250 cases ginger.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Tonkin*, sailed on the 26th July, 1904. For Marseilles.—296 bales raw silk, 125 bales waste silk, 12 cases silk piece goods, 100 cases cassia, 70 packages human hair, 160 packages tea, 7 cases ylang ylang oil, 22 packages sundries. For Lyons.—368 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond.—40 bales raw silk. For Milan.—40 bales raw silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 29th July, 1904.—A fair business has been transacted during the week under review, but the attention of operators is still chiefly confined to Indo-Chinas and Sugars, leaving the remaining stocks more or less neglected. Settlements which commenced today have temporarily depressed the market in some stocks to some extent, but there is every promise that the monthly account will pass off without any difficulty.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—Sales have been effected during the week at \$662½ for the settlements and early delivery next month, while a few small parcels have been placed for cash at that rate; market closes steady at \$662½ with probable buyers. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions remain at \$545 with no business. China Traders have ruled easier and close with sellers at \$64 and at rather lower than equivalent rates forward. Yangtszes and North Chinas quiet at quotations. Cantons continue on offer at \$208.

FIRE INSURANCES.—No change or business to report under this heading.

SHIPPING.—On a rumour that the French opposition boats have been, or are about to be sold to a French syndicate in Shanghai, to run on the Yangtze, Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to \$31 cash buyers after sales at \$29½, \$29½, \$30 and \$30½. On time shares have been placed at \$30½ for August and \$30½ for September; market closes fairly firm at quotations. Indo-Chinas continue erratic with sales at \$101 to \$107 cash, while on time sales have been effected at \$107, \$107½ and \$108, and from Shanghai at Tls. 73, 74, 75, and 77 for December; market closes steady at \$106. With the exception of small sales of old Star Ferrys at \$36 there is no further business to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—Owing to a few parcels of China Sugars being thrown on the market over the settlements, the rate has declined to \$183, after small sales during the week at \$185 and \$184. On time, sales were effected at \$191 for December. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms continue totally neglected. At an extraordinary general meeting held on the 28th inst., it was decided to wind up this Company. Raubs after further sales at \$8 have ruled weaker at \$7½.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks ruled steady during the early part of the week, with sales at \$218, but upon news being received that H.M.S. *Leviathan* had been on shore and was on her way to Hongkong for docking purposes, the rate rose to \$219 without bringing many shares on the market. At \$220, however, some shares are obtainable, while forward shares are obtainable at equivalent rates. Kowloon Wharfs remain dull and neglected at quotation. Farnhams and New Amoy Docks remain unchanged and without any local business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed during the week at \$157 cum dividend of \$6 paid yesterday, and close steady with probable buyers at \$151 ex div. Hotels have been enquired for in a small way at \$134, but no shares were obtainable under \$135, and buyers refuse to pay over \$134. Shanghai Lands have dropped to Tls. 109 without local business. West Points are quoted at \$58½ ex div. with sellers. Humphrey's Estates have been in demand at \$12½ and a few shares have changed hands at that rate. Market closing with buyers at 12½ and sellers at \$12½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been negotiated at \$29½ and \$29½ closing with sellers at \$30. Campbell Moores at \$37. Ices at \$230. Powells at \$10½ and Watkins at \$8, whilst Watsons, Dairy Farms, Bell's Asbestos, Old and New Electrics have been pretty generally enquired for without bringing any shares on the market.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Ice Co. interim dividend (\$4) payable on and after 2nd August. Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd. half-yearly meeting on 16th August. Transfer books close from 2nd August to 16th August. Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	{ \$662½ L'don, £68. 10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
Foun. Shares	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$345, sellers
China Traders	25	\$64, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 65
Yangtze	60	\$130
Canton	50	\$208
Hongkong Fire	50	\$310, buyers
China Fire	20	\$88
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$31, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$106
China and Manila	\$50	\$25½, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35
Star Ferry	\$10	\$36, sales & buyers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	21	23/6, sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	£8. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$183
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$9, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	nominal
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts., sellers
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10d.	\$7½, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$219, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$112, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$30, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 143
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$151, ex div.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38
West Point Building	\$50	\$58½, ex div.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$134, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 109
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 30, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laon Fung Chow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$3½, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$10.50, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$5	\$8½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$210	\$160, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$50	{ \$140, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$48, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$25	\$230, sales & buyers
Hk. Steam Water-	\$100	\$280, buyers
Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$19
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$20, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$37, sales
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$11½, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$8, buyers
China Light & Power	\$10	\$9½
Co., Ltd.		
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$10½, buyers
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and	\$50	\$50
Cleaning Co., Ltd.		
Canton, Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$150, sellers
Phippine Tobacco	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Trust Co., Ltd.		
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$25, nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their Share Report dated July 22nd, states:—We have to report a good business in shares during the past week. The rates all round have remained steady. The Annual Meeting of S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co. was held on the 19th inst., and passed off harmoniously. The final dividend of Tls. 7 making

Tls. 12 for the year was paid on the 20th inst. The Indo-China dividend of 10/- per share was received here on 19th inst., the Bank cashing the warrants at 2/7½—Tls. 3.82. This rate has been accepted by the Stock Exchange here on all forward transactions. The T. T. rate on London today is 2/6½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks have been placed locally at \$665 ex 73, and at 675 ex 73 for October settlement. Marine and Fire Insurances.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos were placed on the 14th at Tls. 79 and 79½ October. 15th at 79 October and 80 and 79½ December. 16th again at 79½ December. 18th at 81½ July 79½ and 80 October, and 80 and 80½ December. 19th at 80 July and August, and 80½ December. All these quotations are inclusive of the dividend of 10/- mentioned above. On the 20th shares were placed at 77 ex dividend. The market closes weak with sellers at 74. This fall is due to anxiety here for the fate of the Co.'s steamer *Hipsang*. She was expected in Chefoo from Newchwang, and is four days late at that port. We hear on good authority that she is fully insured outside of the Company. Docks & Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd.—A large business has been done in this stock during the week. The market opened on the 14th with sales for July delivery at Tls. 152½, 151, and 152, 152 August and 153 September and December. On the 15th July shares were placed at 151, 152, and 152½; at 153 August, 153 and 154 September, and 155 and 154 October, and 157 and 158 October. On the 16th for July at 152½ and 153, 156 and 156½ September and 158 December. On the 18th at 153 July and 156½ October, 158 December. All the above quotations are inclusive of the dividend referred to above. On the 20th July shares ex dividend were placed at Tls. 145, and for December at 152. At closing the market is very quiet with July shares offering at Tls. 144. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves have been placed at Tls. 150 July, and 153½ December. Market very quiet. Sugars.—China Sugars have been placed to Hongkong at 184 Ex. 71½. Mining.—The only business reported is in Weihaiwei Golds at \$17½ cash and 19 December. Lands.—Shanghais have been placed at Tls. 112½ ex dividend of Tls. 3 paid on 18th inst. Industrial.—Shanghai Paper and Pulp have been placed at Tls. 130 cash and Ices at Tls. 23. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. The market has remained very steady during the week with sales at Tls. 300 cash and July delivery. A quotation is reported of Tls. 302½ July. At close there are buyers at Tls. 300 and sellers at 301½ for this date. In forward sales 310 September, and 312½ October were reported, and for December at 320. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 65, 67½ and 70 cash. Stores & Hotels.—Central Stores new shares \$7½ paid, have been placed at \$8. Astors at \$34 and Hall and Holts at \$30½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Telephones have been placed at Tls. 68, and Electrics at \$26. Loans.—No transactions are reported in Debentures.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 29th July.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	233½
Credits 4 months' sight	237
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	189½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138½
Bank, on demand	138½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138½
Bank, on demand	138½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	90½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	Nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	Nom.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	111½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	82
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.70
GOLD LEAF, 130 fine, per tael	\$56.50
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 29th July.—During the past fortnight freights coastwise have improved. From Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul has been paid, but only 14 cents per picul is now obtainable; to Philippines, 27 cents to 30 cents per picul according to size and position; to Java, 27 cents per picul; to Japan, 27 cents last. North coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents for wet and/or dry sugar. Noilo to this, no inquiry. From Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents last, but to further demand at the moment; to Swatow, 23 cents per picul. Coal freights are firmer. From Moji to this, \$1.50 last; to Singapore, \$1.50. Sailing vessels. The American bark *E. B. Sutton* 1,243 tons net register has been taken up to load here for New York, with lay days up to end November, at about \$11,500 U.S. gold lump sum. The following are the settlements:—

E. B. Sutton—American barque, 1,639 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Kampot—French steamer, 647 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents per picul.

Providence—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 23 cents per picul.

Belgian King—British steamer, 2,153 tons, Karatsu to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Fooching—British steamer, 1,423 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Tientsin—British steamer, 1,227 tons, Hongay to Amoy, \$2.25 per ton.

Phuyen—French steamer, 1,298 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul.

Karin—Swedish steamer, 698 tons, Sourabaya to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.

Macquarie—British steamer, 2,073 tons, Saigon to Kobe or Yokohama, 27 cents per picul.

Shantung—British steamer, 1,837 tons, Saigon to two ports north coast Java, 28 cents per picul.

Ningpo—British steamer, 1,228 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (25,000 piculs), 25 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 30 cents per picul (part cargo).

Chunshan—British steamer, 1,232 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 27 cents per picul.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,262 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

An Pho—British steamer, 966 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,533 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Hohnstein—German steamer, 1,275 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Triumph—German steamer, 760 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$6,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

- 24, Hailoong, British str., from Amoy.
- 24, Tonkin, French str., from Yokohama.
- 24, Tourane, French str., from Marseilles.
- 24, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
- 24, Vengs, British str., from Cardiff.
- 25, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 25, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Loongmoon, German str., from Wuhu.
- 25, Mathilde, German str., from Touron.
- 25, Orange, British str., from Bangkok.
- 25, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
- 25, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
- 25, Tartar, British str., from Vancouver.
- 25, Tritos, German str., from Swatow.
- 25, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 26, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.
- 26, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 26, Decima, German str., from Canton.
- 26, Edendale, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 26, Empr. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 26, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 26, Rath, Norwegian str., from Moji.
- 26, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
- 27, Andalusia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 27, Bucentaur, British str., from Yokohama.
- 27, Chunsang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 27, Eclipse, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 27, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 27, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
- 27, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 27, Nanima, British str., from Moji.
- 27, Woosung, British str., from Canton.

- 28, Chihli, British str., from Tientsin.
- 28, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 28, Esang, British str., from Canton.]
- 28, Georgian Prince, British str., from S'pore.
- 28, Nanyang, German str., from Chefoo.

July—

DEPARTURES.

- 25, Adamastor, Portuguese cr., for Shanghai.
- 25, Eclipse, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
- 25, Haish Ho, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 25, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
- 25, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 25, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
- 25, Taifu, German str., for Saigon.
- 25, Tourane, French str., for Shanghai.
- 25, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 26, Arratoon Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
- 26, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 26, Esang, British str., for Canton.
- 26, Gaea, Norwegian str., for Rajang.
- 26, Gogovale, British str., for Japan.
- 26, Hailoong, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 26, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 26, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
- 26, Mathilde, German str., for Swatow.
- 26, Opland, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 26, Persia, Austrian str., for Trieste.
- 26, Progress, German str., for Hoihow.
- 26, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
- 26, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Singapore.
- 26, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
- 26, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
- 26, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
- 27, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 27, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 27, Coningsby, British str., for Rangoon.
- 27, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
- 27, Quangnam, French str., for Hongay.
- 27, Sishan, British str., for Hongay.
- 27, Taishan, British str., for Swatow.
- 27, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 27, Tritos, German str., for Swatow.
- 28, Baron Gordon, British str., for Sourabaya.
- 28, Bucentaur, British str., for London.
- 28, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
- 28, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
- 28, Decima, German str., for Chefoo.
- 28, Kansu, British str., for Tientsin.
- 28, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
- 28, Mascotte, British str., for Kobe.
- 28, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Ocean, British battleship, for Weihaiwei.
- 28, Putiala, British str., for Amoy.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Gregory Apar*, from Calcutta, &c., Capt. G. C. Beamish, Messrs. F. J. Jeffries, G. J. Bruce, A. De L. Long, and P. K. Glazebrooks.

Per *Empire*, from Australia, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Poulard, Mrs. V. E. Borges, Capt. J. A. Borges, Messrs. F. E. Allen, A. Garlos, A. Esteves, A. dos Santos, P.A., V. E. Nazareth, M. A. Borges, M. de S. Barretto, G. F. Desbien, and J. Enos; for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Thom, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Misses Perry, Potter, Cormack, and S. Svoa, Messrs. S. J. Perry, W. E. Dennis, F. Schmeltsoher, and S. Ygawa.

Per *Tourane*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mrs. Block and 2 children, Mrs. Anna Delette, Messrs. Jules Block and Guerin; from Singapore, Mr. J. K. Moir; from Saigon, Mrs. Joaquina Gonsalves and Mrs. Valentine dos Postos; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Marie Valmier and infant, Mr. Tiburne Chant, Messrs. Paul Le Becq, T. M. Reid, Szweszyk, Medon, Deuschmann, Giamarchi, Monniot, Welfele, Chazet, Vandescal, Ostrow Rospopoff, Hequet, Coup, Laribe, Agba Mohamed Achimi, Derousier, Narpon, Bouzac, and Rappart; from Port Said, Mr. Dimitri; from Colombo, Messrs. G. Cavadascois and G. Verdopulos; from Singapore, Mrs. G. Kledermann, Mrs. R. Haim, Miss R. Zilbermann, Messrs. Stellios Madridis, Struk Balzer, Peter Killatis, and J. Agram; from Saigon, Mr. Gilles Jean, for Kobe, from Singapore, M. S. Insue; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Ruegg and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Baron, Dr. Nagasaki, Messrs. Adam, de Reinach Iderth, Ruegg, Ishigami, Smetvan Serberghe, Solier, and Bolcowitch; from Colombo, Messrs. K. S. Makija and I. J. Goba.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Messrs. J. Gomes and Georg Leroy; from Shanghai, Mrs. Marie Basset, Messrs. E. S. Petersen, M. Menier, Roudon, Ch. Edelin, Glaska, and Wantell; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Oberguin and infant, Messrs. Silvia Edonard and Maconde; for Singapore, from Kobe, Messrs. E. Y. Augullis, J. H. Patel, and R. Gami; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Capt. Barron; for Bombay, from Kobe, Messrs. A. Josti and J. Bhat; from Yokohama, Mr. Gust. Baron and Dr. Baron; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. N. B. Manouso; for Marseilles, from Kobe, Capt. Nalfalan Alsen, Messrs. Benastrite, Noyhammer, Hans Eide, Jensen, Adin Thomsen, Lassen, H. Abrahamsen, Larsen Carlsen, Michelsen, Theodore Batle, J. Jensen, Mataumason, P. Haussen, F. Andersen, P. Petersen, H. Buhl, and H. Larsen; from Shanghai, Mrs. Pasquier, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Lowet, Sisters Th. Wills and M. Erwin, Messrs. Dufloy, Balahayr, Reckel, R. Imbert, Rideau, Oron Georges, Jean, de Freyatnet, Eury, Mayel, Roblony, Gaudelin, de Carsaladedu Pont, Albert Lambert, Cardot, Robert, J. Prentice, Dupuy, F. H. Ensinger, W. H. B. Black, J. W. Wren, H. J. Abbey, H. W. Smith, J. Johnston, J. Hardie, J. Scobie, Thos. Salter, H. W. Page, J. Macaulay, Le Hoeron, Laloup, Tisserand Cloatre, Waton, Riquier, Bonneau, Delmenique, Forestier, Neil Levy, Kermarrec, Mevel, Le Breton, Gaillard, Giroudet, Heily, Guichard, Tonleco, Tardien, Lahellec, Trehoret, Lepa, Grain, Coz Yves, Melo, Lied Pierre, Tomillier, Justois, Le Guillon, Gonery, Lucast, Cabot, Baes, Darthenay, Pageol, Pinand Joseph, and Boncet.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Dr. Fred. E. Son'ern and Mr. H. Hursthouse; from Yokohama, Mrs. R. H. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bent, Mrs. and Miss Wolfson, Mrs. R. Smith, Lieut. Craig, Col. Holbecke, Messrs. S. T. Wenborn, J. B. Anderson, J. Putnam, and P. Ashfield; from Kobe, Mrs. W. D. Graham; from Shanghai, Capt. W. S. Whipple, Dr. R. T. Oliver, Messrs. E. F. Spethmann, C. W. Mead, and A. C. Boughton.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Capt. and Mrs. J. E. Yates, Miss Norvell Yates, Mrs. L. Stanford, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Harris, Dr. and Mrs. F. H. Wolven, Mrs. Kinsbrauner, Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Moore, Mrs. L. Collier, Miss Catherine Collier, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Shiverly, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lindsey, Col. C. H. Lauchheim, Dr. W. E. Hall, Misses R. E. Lillie and Storrey, Messrs. F. Sammy, Fred. Sammy, J. W. Morse, W. C. Krugel, F. Myer, Shirali, Meirafjal Khan, Jegit Sing, Manuel T. Que Tocco, O. Porris, Tan Uteo, A. B. Moulder, H. W. Durbaron, L. Keescho, Fred. Fruitler, J. W. Ailes, A. McFerrin, J. Patton, T. S. Patt, R. B. Tufts, O. N. Fousler, J. L. Dryder, A. G. Embrey, R. M. McCrone, E. Madsen, J. Godward, L. R. Godward, H. D. Helms, A. E. Qoder, F. Langley, W. Williams, B. F. Bowers, W. J. Lee, H. C. Seal, C. B. Butcher, H. B. Watermann, M. G. Beverley, L. Samie, C. O'Connell, Chas. Kuenzel, J. Longos, Macario Mendiss, C. Socoo, L. Weir, C. A. Tomlin, Tom Sangars, T. T. Jianey, Wm. Jianey, S. Kandler, H. Hui, Vra Ilor, Paulino Uto, Candido Ontanon, W. E. Smith, C. H. Fullaway, P. Hagen, E. M. Lelyard, and D. E. Woodward.

Per *Tourane*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Rose Bush, Mrs. Rose, Messrs. H. T. Stapleton, Perdiki, Petitembert, Oodhundaas Lilaram, B. Gorwiche, Paul Rob. Otto Kooche, F. Lorria, Dubois, R. L. Mats, and Rev. Nazianze; for Kobe, Messrs. F. B. E. Land, H. F. Danke, S. J. Perry, Hiranand, K. Yoshida, M. Ismail, and Lathamall; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins and Mrs. Aloca and child.

Per *Tonkin*, for Saigon, Messrs. F. E. Allen, D. de Sousa, Bayay, and J. Mounsey; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cheek, Mrs. S. Friedmann, Messrs. S. H. Joseph, J. H. Ellis, A. Franck, and J. B. Gibb's; for Bombay, Mr. Maurice Allix; for Tamatave, Mrs. Rico; for Batavia, Mr. Pona Lip Tjay; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Quenu, Messrs. Marion, Crespin, Guen-gant, Yves Seve, Jules Ehrmann, Jean Seveille, and Marsia.

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